Bennett · Cafaro · Prianto · Peteri

WITCHBLADE®

image
13 AUG
DIGITAL EDITION US
TOP COW UNIVERSE

WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously...Sara's search into the cover-up that destroyed her father and the supernatural forces surrounding her pointed to billionaire Kenneth Irons. Irons' involvement and the clues surrounding human trafficking and murder in the city led Sara to the supernatural beings known as Creosotes, dark creatures that seem to kill and manifest as their fallen prey. Following a lead, Sara and Ian Nottingham entered the Creosote nest where Sara's partner, Michael Yee, was shot. Irons reveals that Ian betrayed her and that Irons can save her partner...for a price. Retrieve something from within the Creosote temple for him, and Irons will save Michael's life. Along the way, Sara passed through the supernatural realm of "The Harrowing" where she encountered nascent The Darkness bearer Jackie Estacado and the enigmatic Sonatine. Deeper into the temple, Sara faced several personal trials meant to test her. Within the temple, Sara discovered a child, but no ordinary one. An angelic creature with the ability to heal. Upon returning, a fierce battle erupted with Ian and Sara facing Irons, but in the climactic final battle, Irons mortally wounded Sara, cutting the Witchblade from her arm. With the Witchblade brutally ripped from her body by Irons, Michael Yee left dying in a nest of monsters, Ian Nottingham's betrayal, and Jackie Estacado emerging as her mortal enemy, how can Sara survive, much less prevail?

"STARS"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**
Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif Prianto**
Letters by **Troy Peteri**
Edits by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt Hawkins** and **Ryan Cady**

Cover A and D (Virgin, B/W): **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**
Cover B, and E (Virgin): **Jason Shawn Alexander**
Cover C, F (Virgin), and Top Cow Store Spot Foil Exclusive: **David Mack**

For Top Cow Productions, Inc.
Marc Silvestri - CEO
Matt Hawkins - President & COO
Vincent Valentine - Director of Special Projects
Phil Smith - Edits, Design and Production
Lisa Y. Wu - Marketing Director
Want more info? Check out:
www.topcow.com
for news & exclusive merchandise!

IMAGE COMICS, INC.

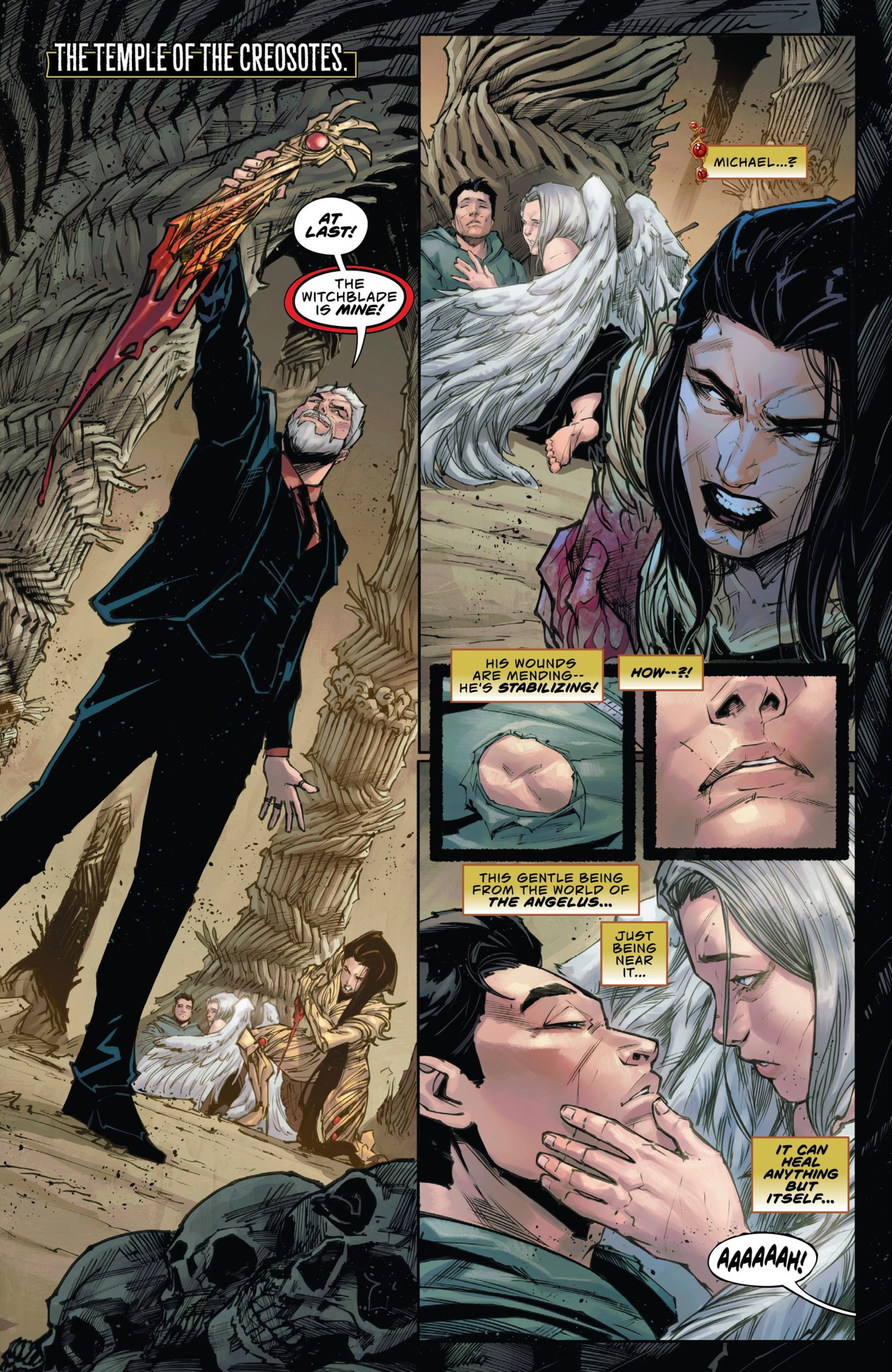
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operations Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher & Chief Creative Officer

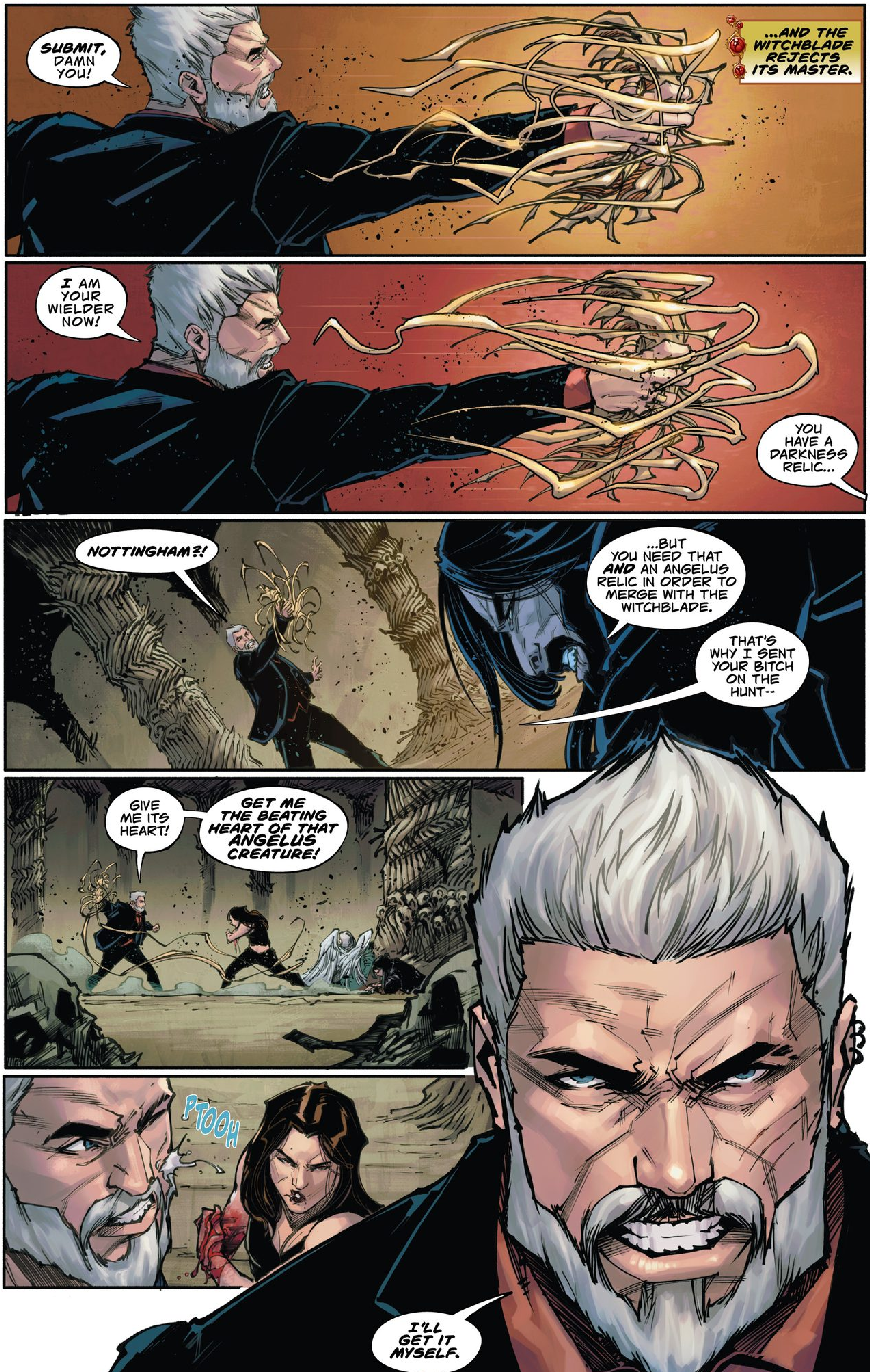
IMAGECOMICS.COM

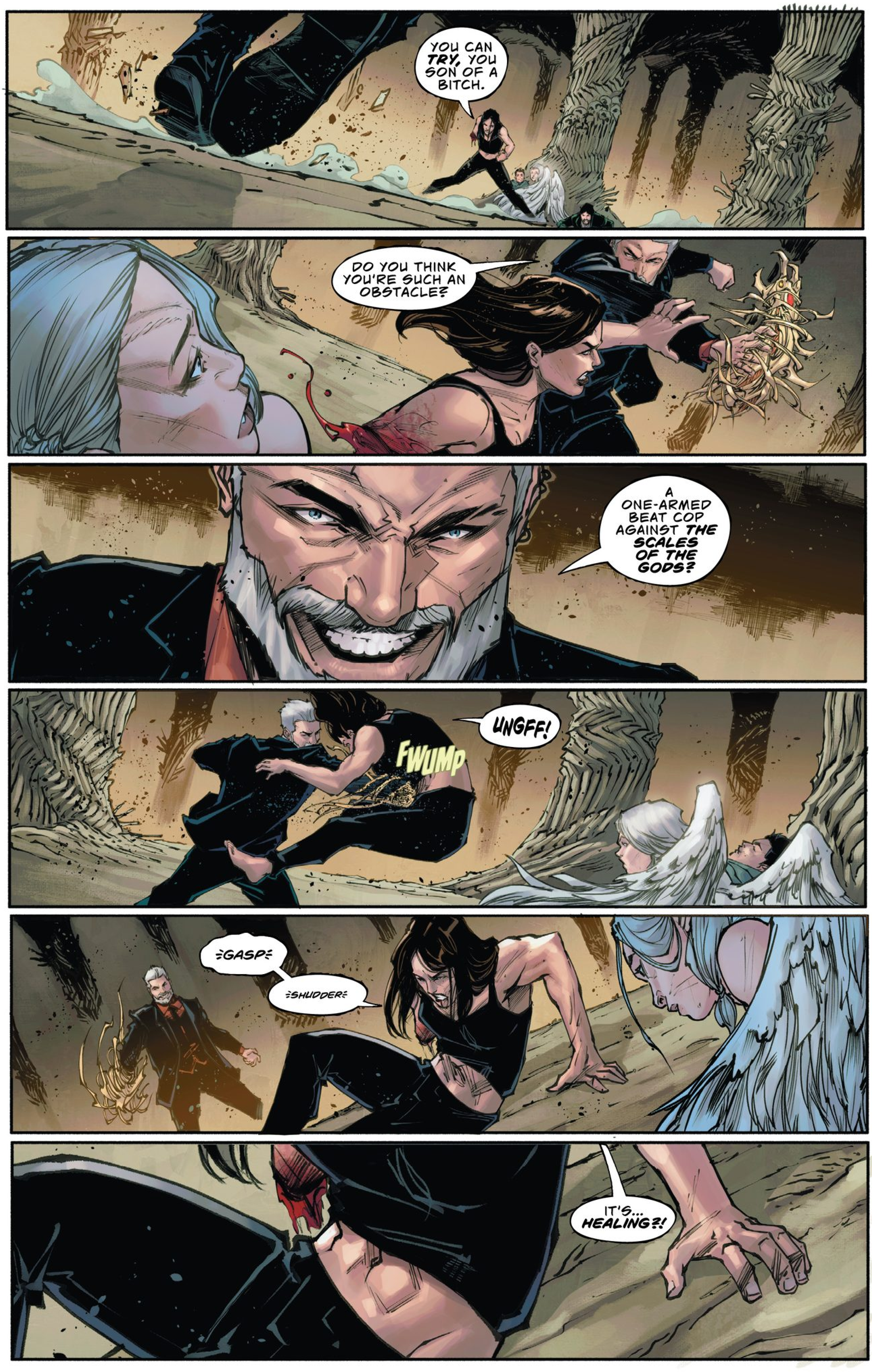
COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE
888-COMIC-BOOK
888-266-4226

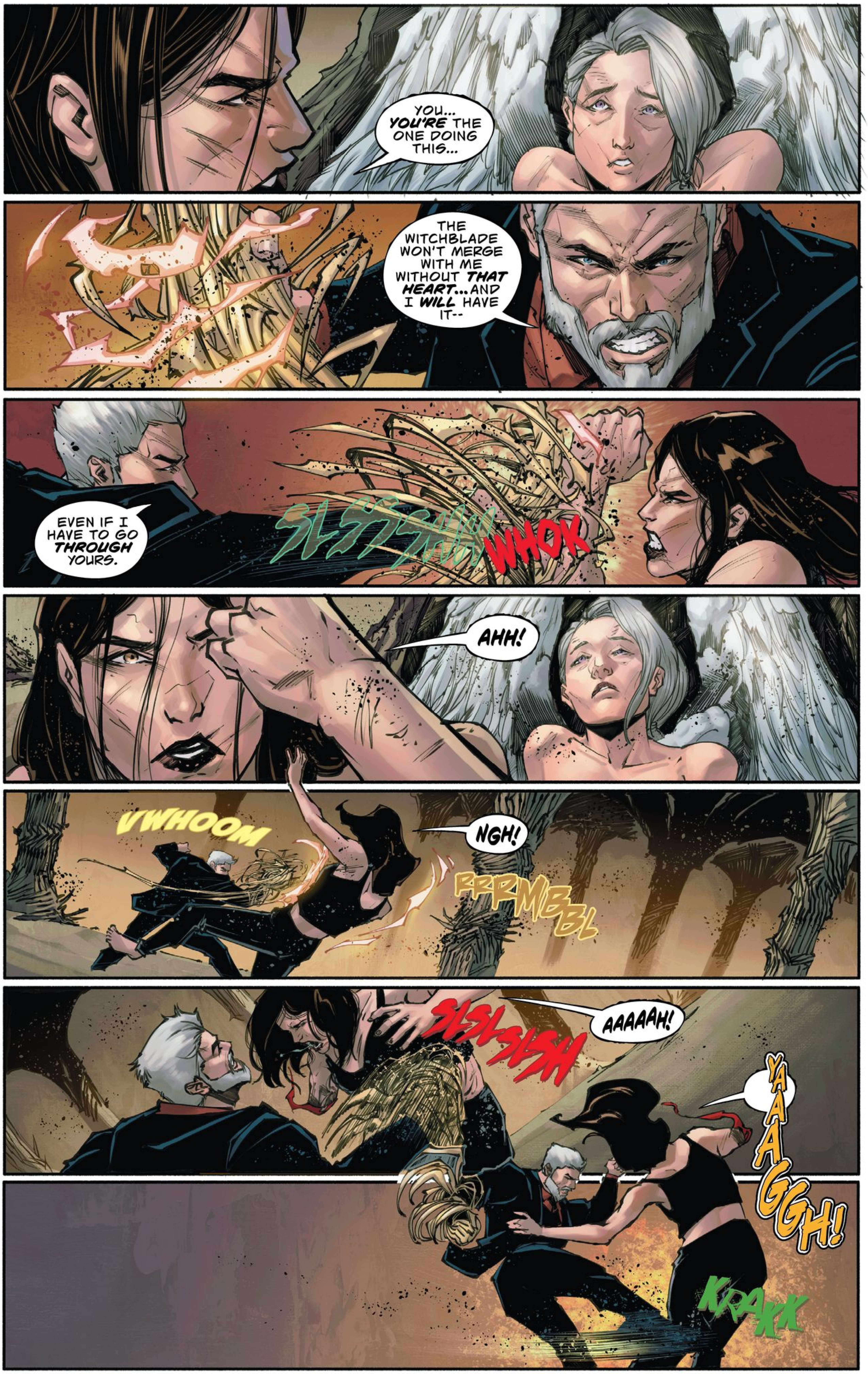
To find the
comic shop
nearest you, call:
1-888-COMICBOOK

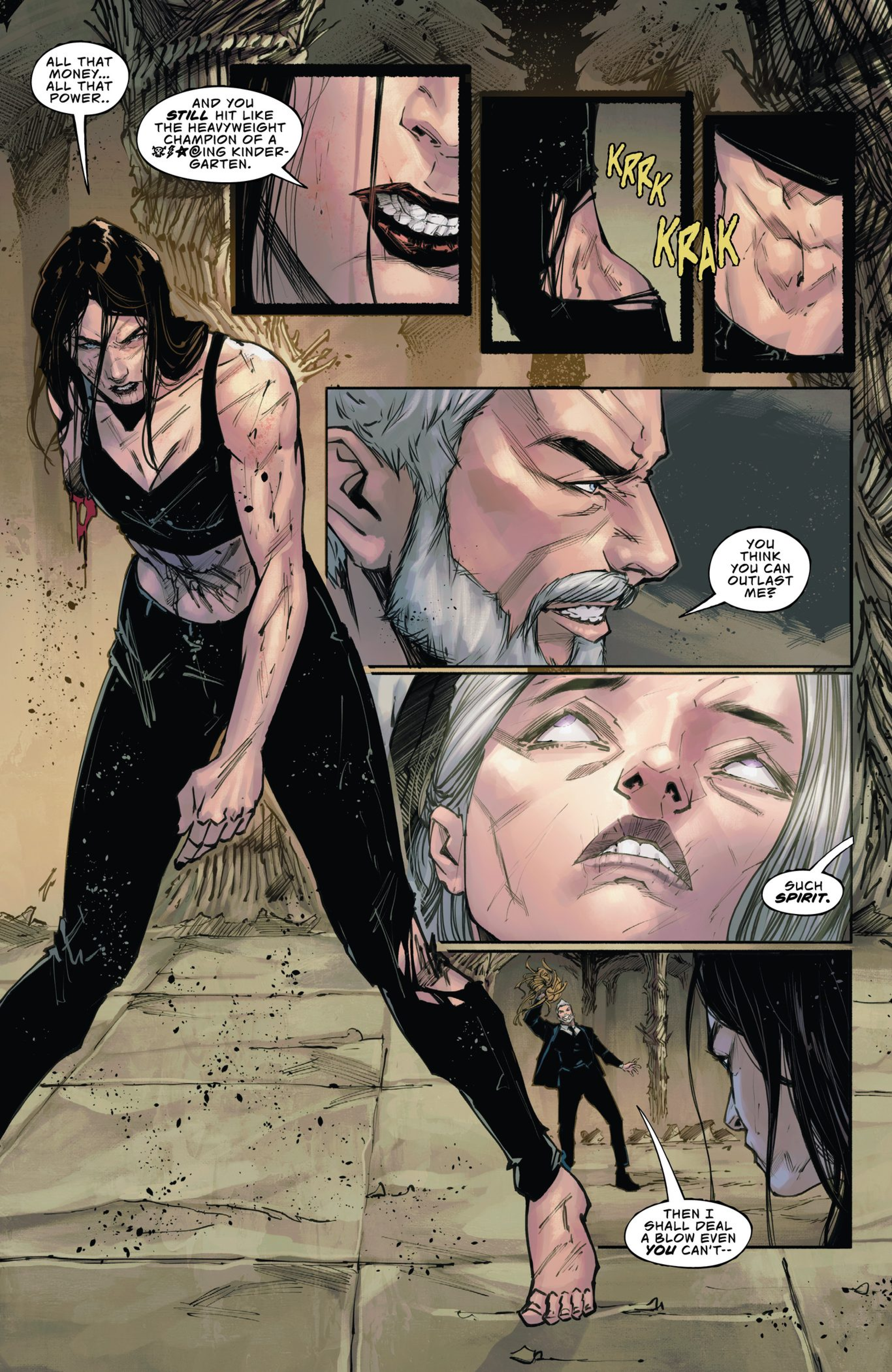
WITCHBLADE #13. First Printing. August 2025. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: PO BOX 14457, Portland, OR 97293. Copyright © 2025 Top Cow Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. "Witchblade," its logos, and the likenesses of all characters herein are trademarks of Top Cow Productions, Inc., unless otherwise noted. Image Comics logo designed by Rob Liefeld. "Image" and the Image Comics logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for journalistic or review purposes), without the express written permission of Top Cow Productions, Inc., or Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, or places, without satirical intent, is coincidental. For international rights, contact: matt@topcow.com

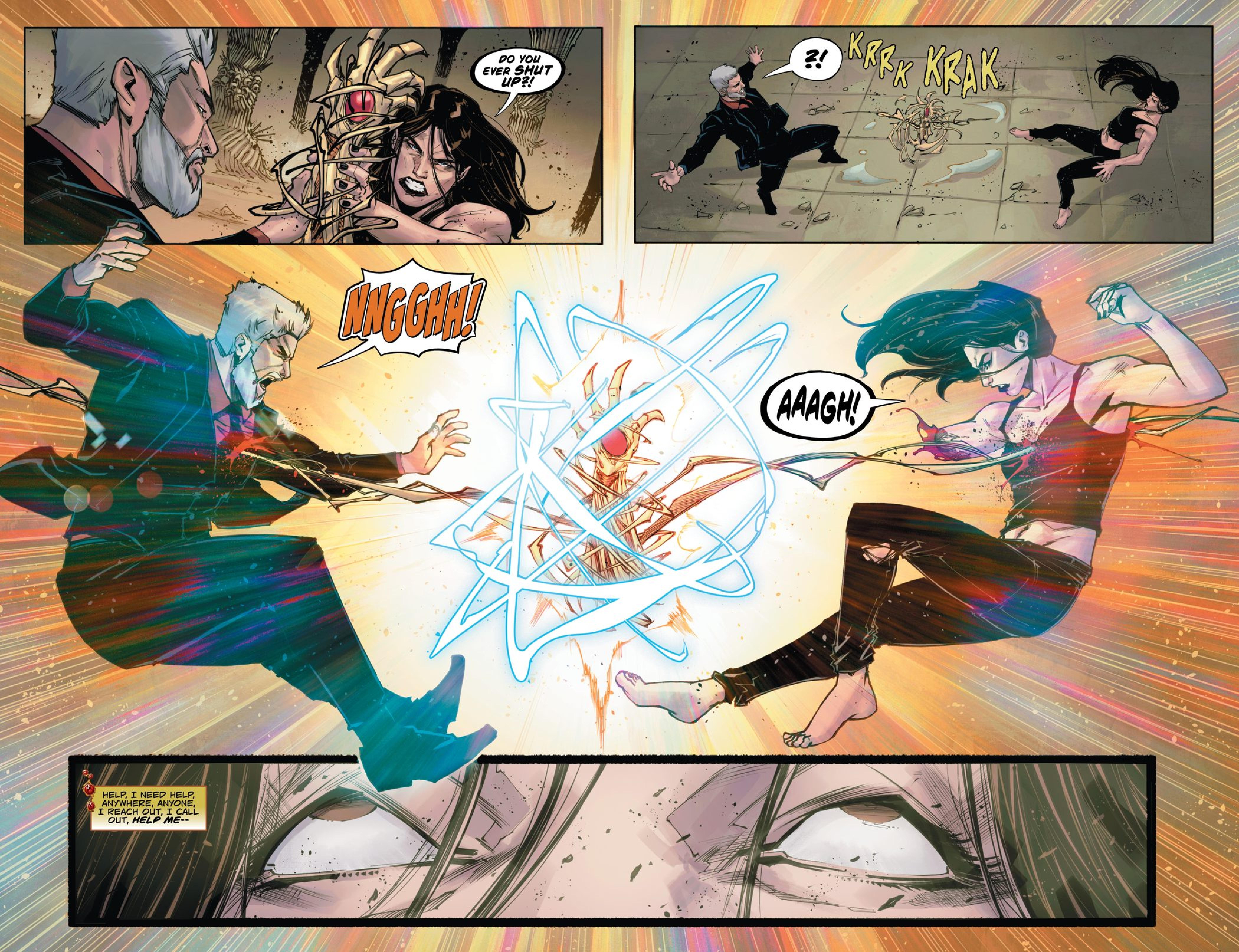

THE TEMPLE OF THE CREOSOTES.
AT LAST!
THE WITCHBLADE IS MINE!
MICHAEL...?
HIS WOUNDS ARE MENDING-- HE'S STABILIZING!
HOW--?!
THIS GENTLE BEING FROM THE WORLD OF THE ANGELUS...
JUST BEING NEAR IT...
IT CAN HEAL ANYTHING BUT ITSELF...
AAAAAAH!

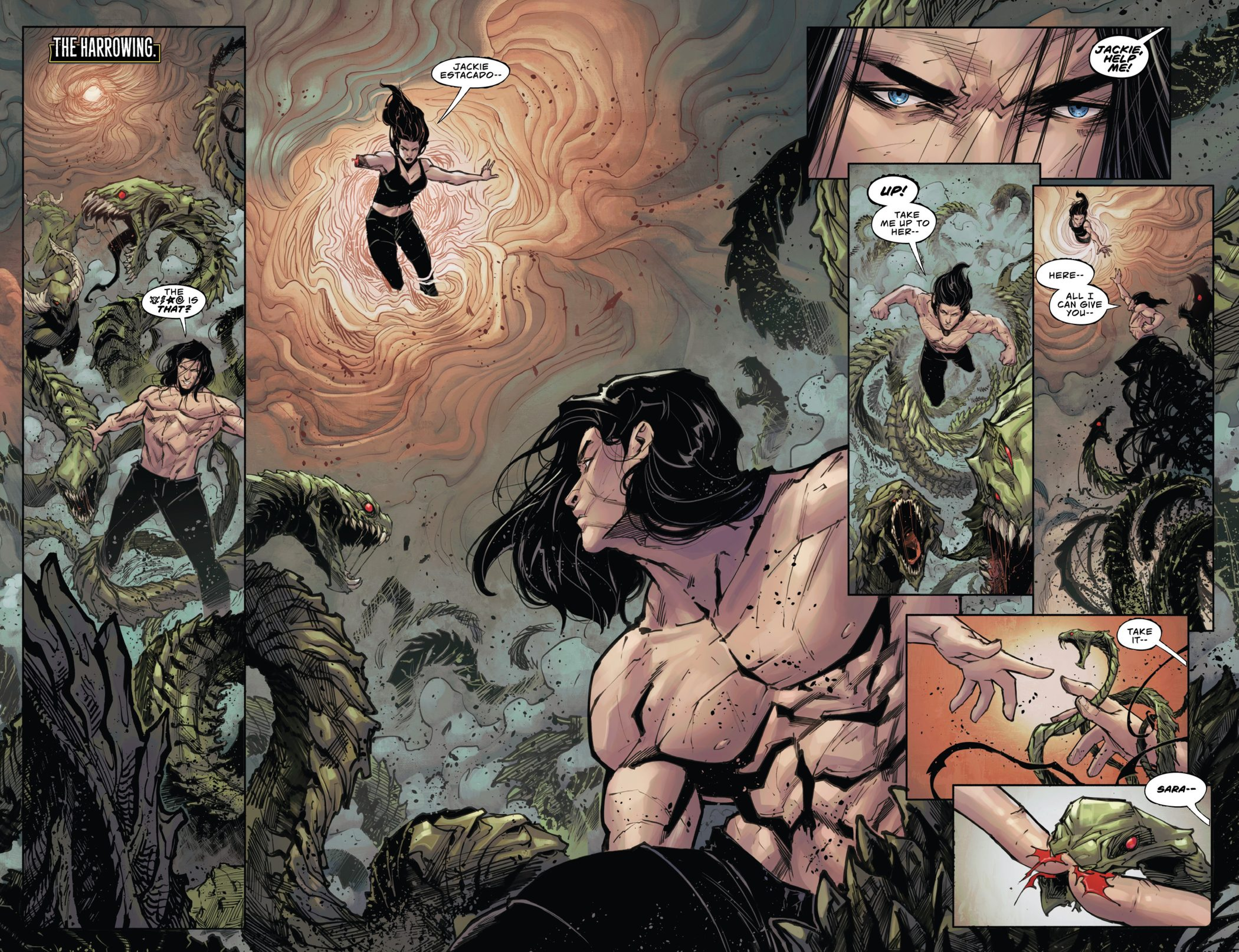

SUBMIT, DAMN YOU!
...AND THE WITCHBLADE REJECTS ITS MASTER.
I AM YOUR WIELDER NOW!
YOU HAVE A DARKNESS RELIC...
NOTTINGHAM?!
...BUT YOU NEED THAT AND AN ANGELUS RELIC IN ORDER TO MERGE WITH THE WITCHBLADE.
THAT'S WHY I SENT YOUR BITCH ON THE HUNT--
GIVE ME ITS HEART!
GET ME THE BEATING HEART OF THAT ANGELUS CREATURE!
PTOOH
I'LL GET IT MYSELF.

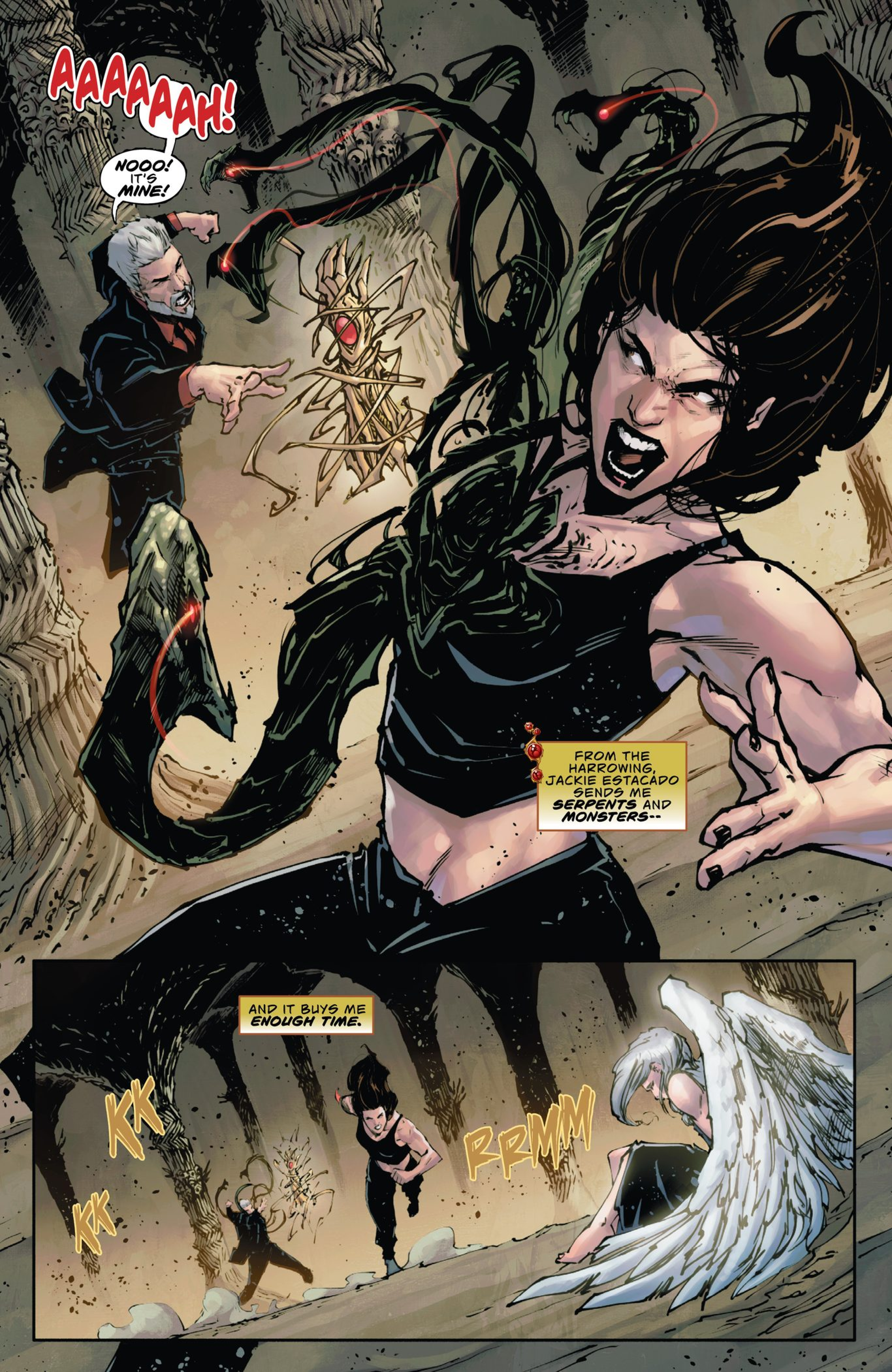

YOU CAN **TRY,** YOU SON OF A BITCH.
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SUCH AN OBSTACLE?
A ONE-ARMED BEAT COP AGAINST **THE SCALES OF THE GODS?**
UNGFF!
FWUMP
GASP
SHUDDER
IT'S... **HEALING?!**

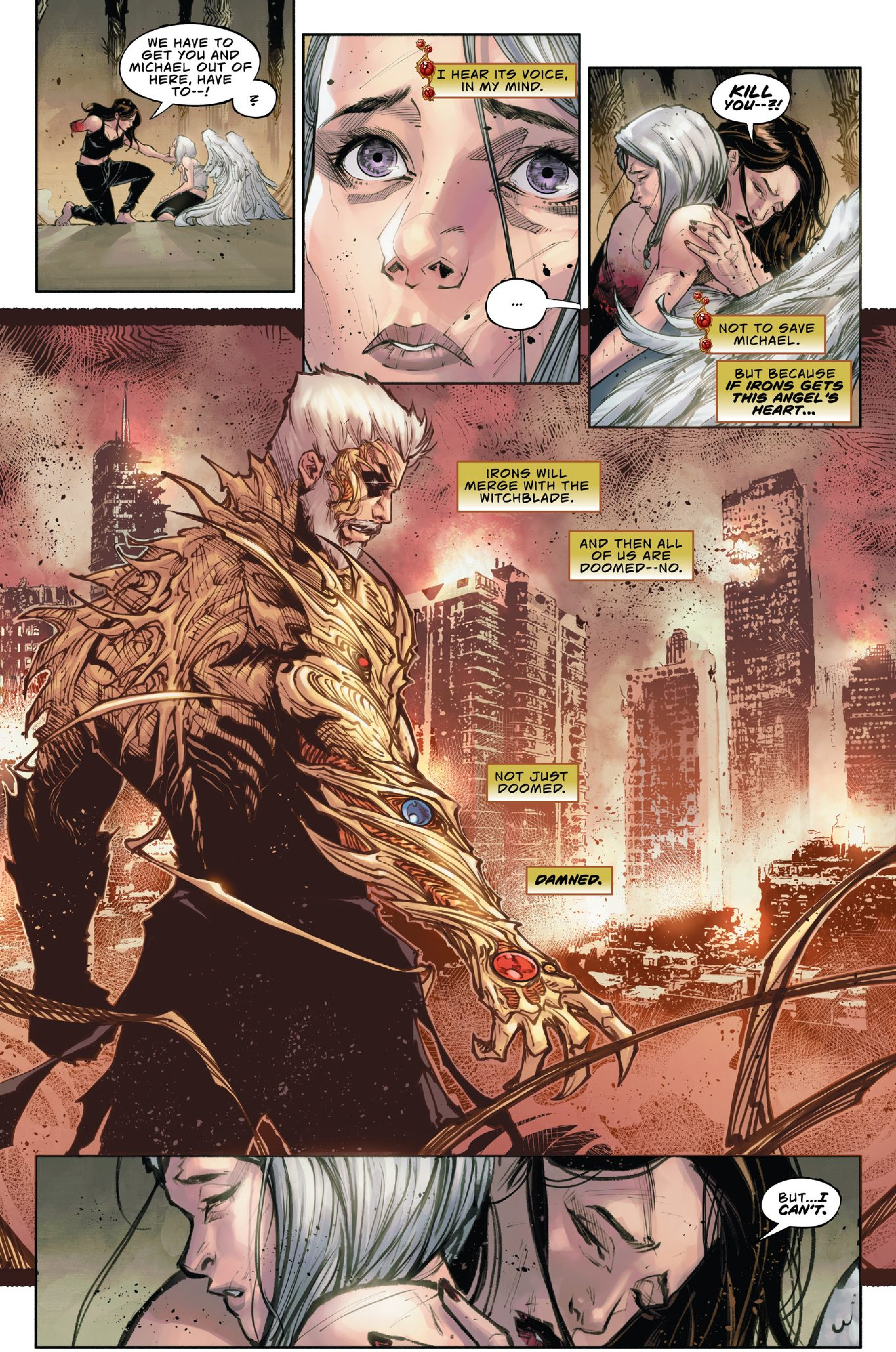

YOU... YOU'RE THE ONE DOING THIS...
THE WITCHBLADE WON'T MERGE WITHOUT ME WITHOUT THAT HEART...AND I WILL HAVE IT--
EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO THROUGH YOURS.
SLSSSHH
WHOK
AHH!
VWHOOM
NGH!
RRRMBBL
SLSLSLSH
AAAAAH!
YAAAGGH!
KRAKK

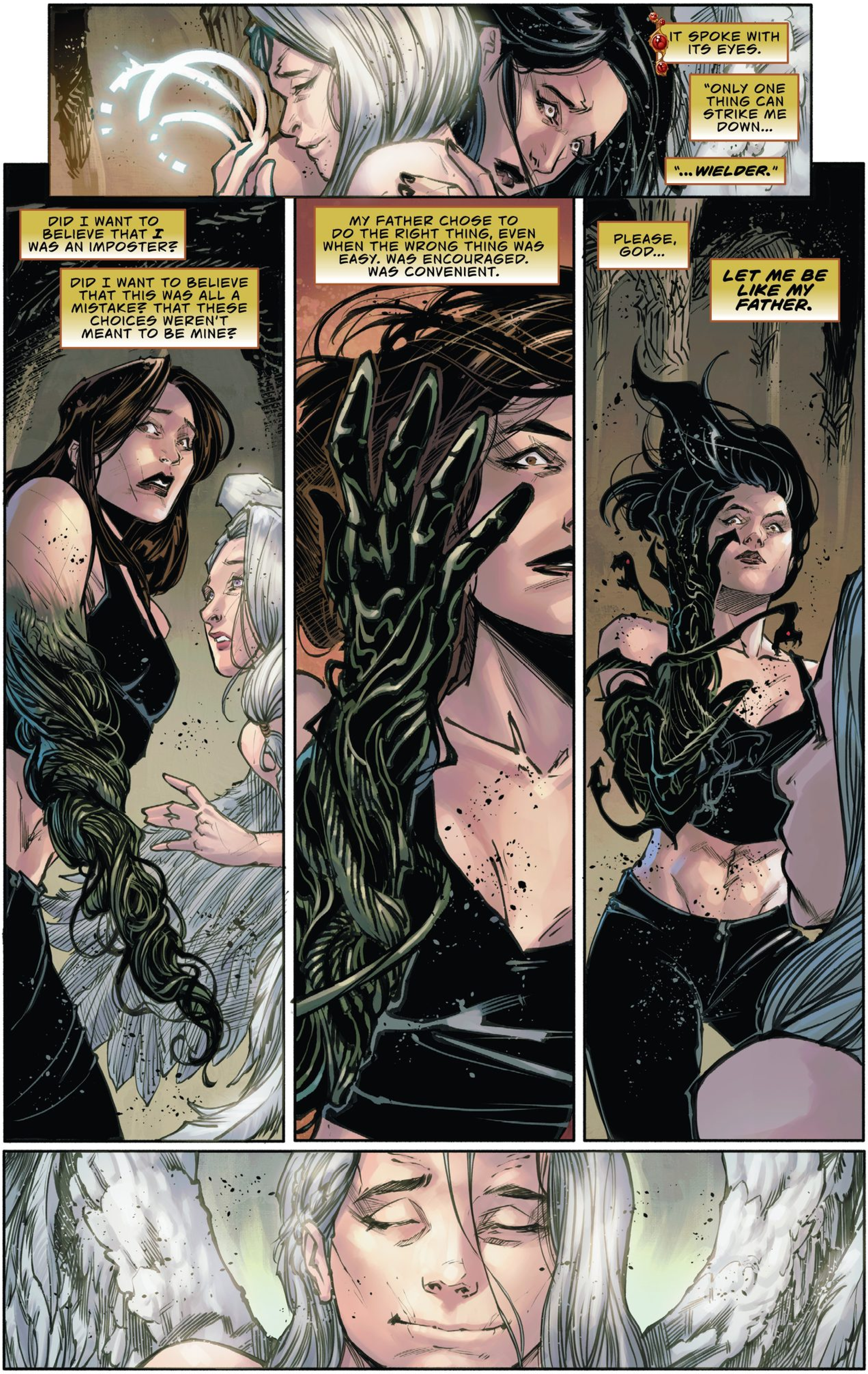

ALL THAT MONEY... ALL THAT POWER..
AND YOU **STILL** HIT LIKE THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION OF A ☠⚡★@ING KINDERGARTEN.
KRRK
KRAK
YOU THINK YOU CAN OUTLAST ME?
SUCH **SPIRIT.**
THEN I SHALL DEAL A BLOW EVEN **YOU** CAN'T--

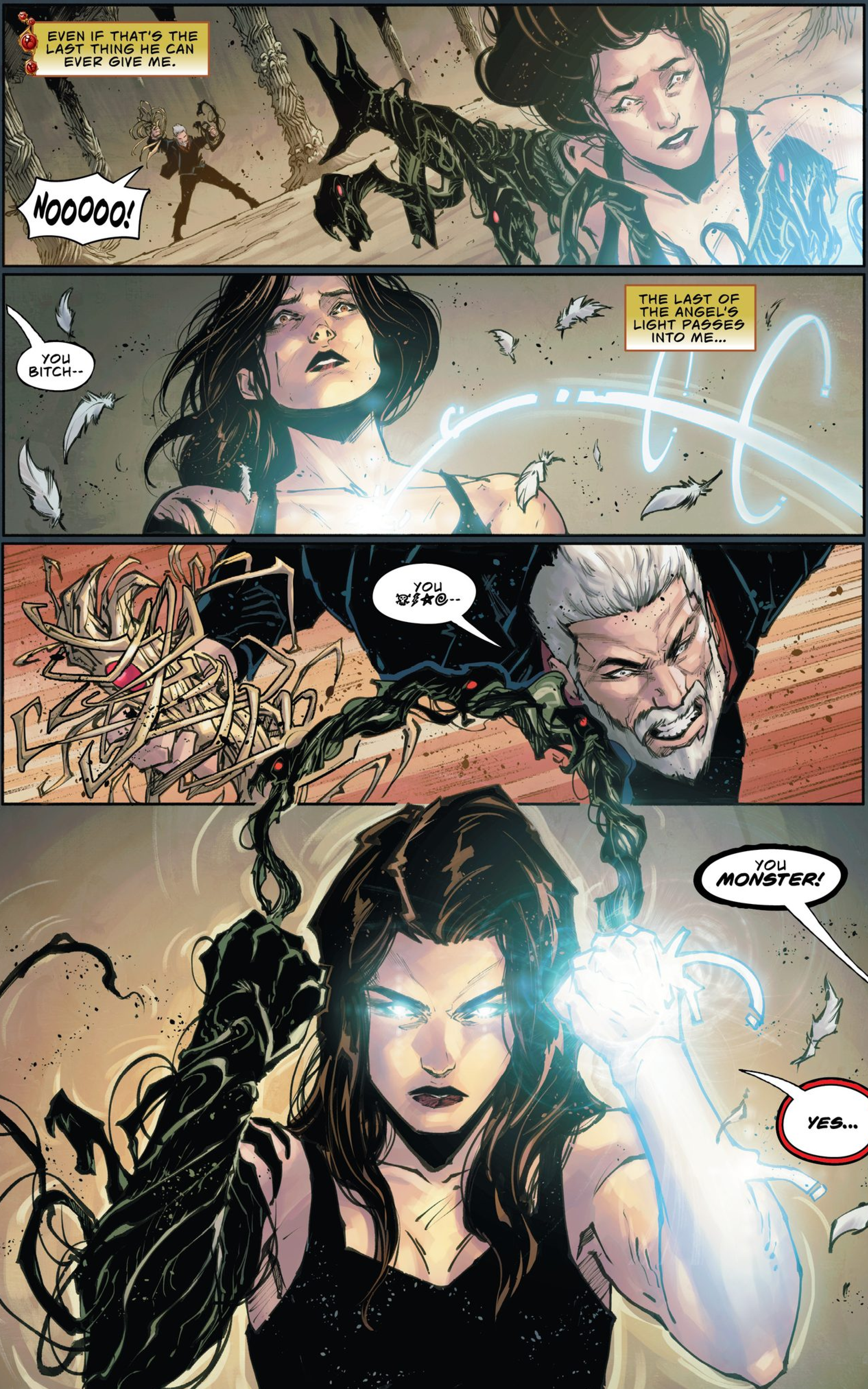

DO YOU EVER SHUT UP?!
?!
KRRK KRAK
NNGGHH!
AAAGH!
HELP, I NEED HELP, ANYWHERE, ANYONE, I REACH OUT, I CALL OUT, HELP ME--

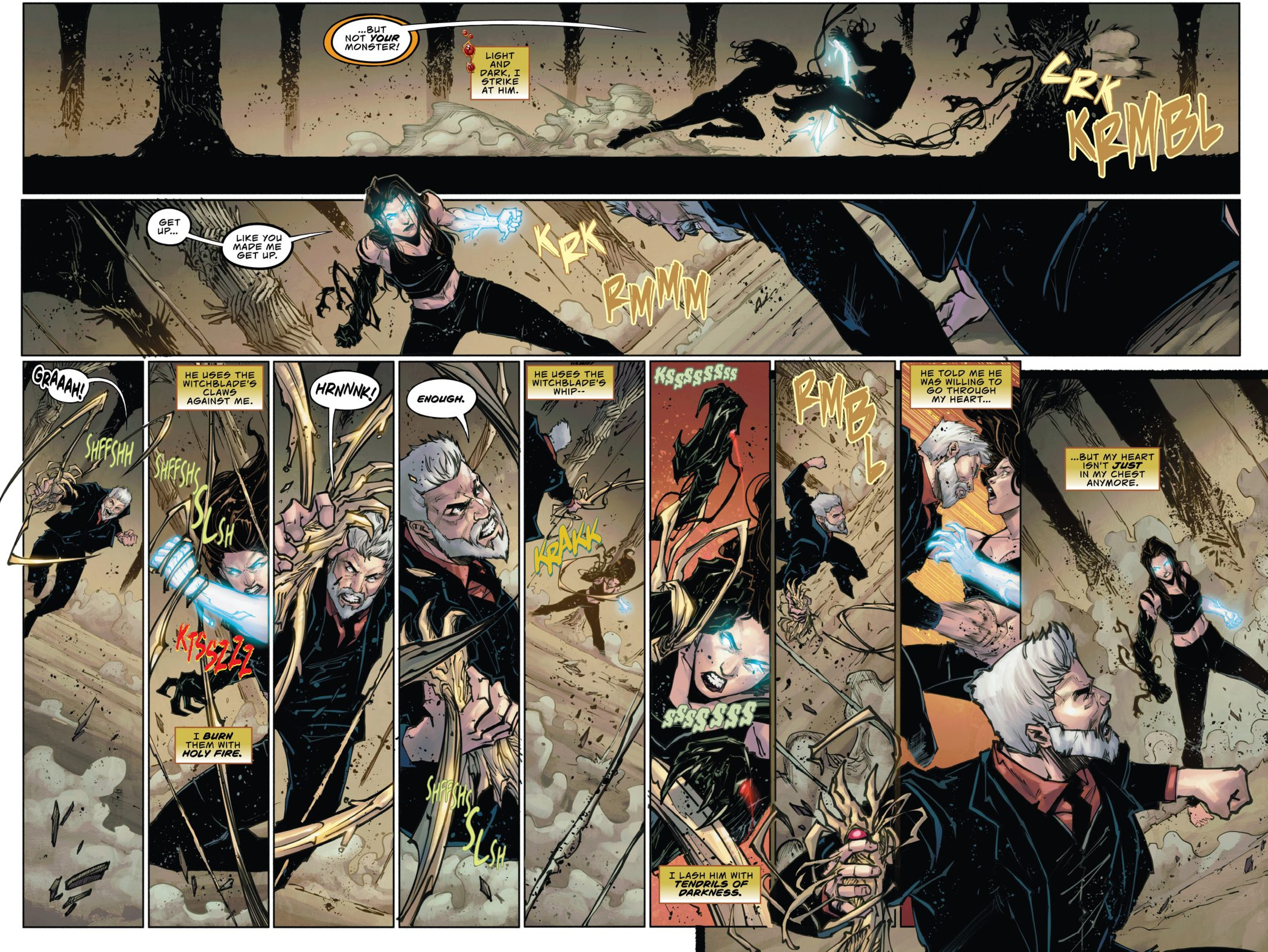

THE HARROWING.
THE ☠⚡★@ IS *THAT?*
JACKIE ESTACADO--
JACKIE, HELP ME!
UP!
TAKE ME UP TO HER--
HERE--
ALL I CAN GIVE YOU--
TAKE IT--
SARA--

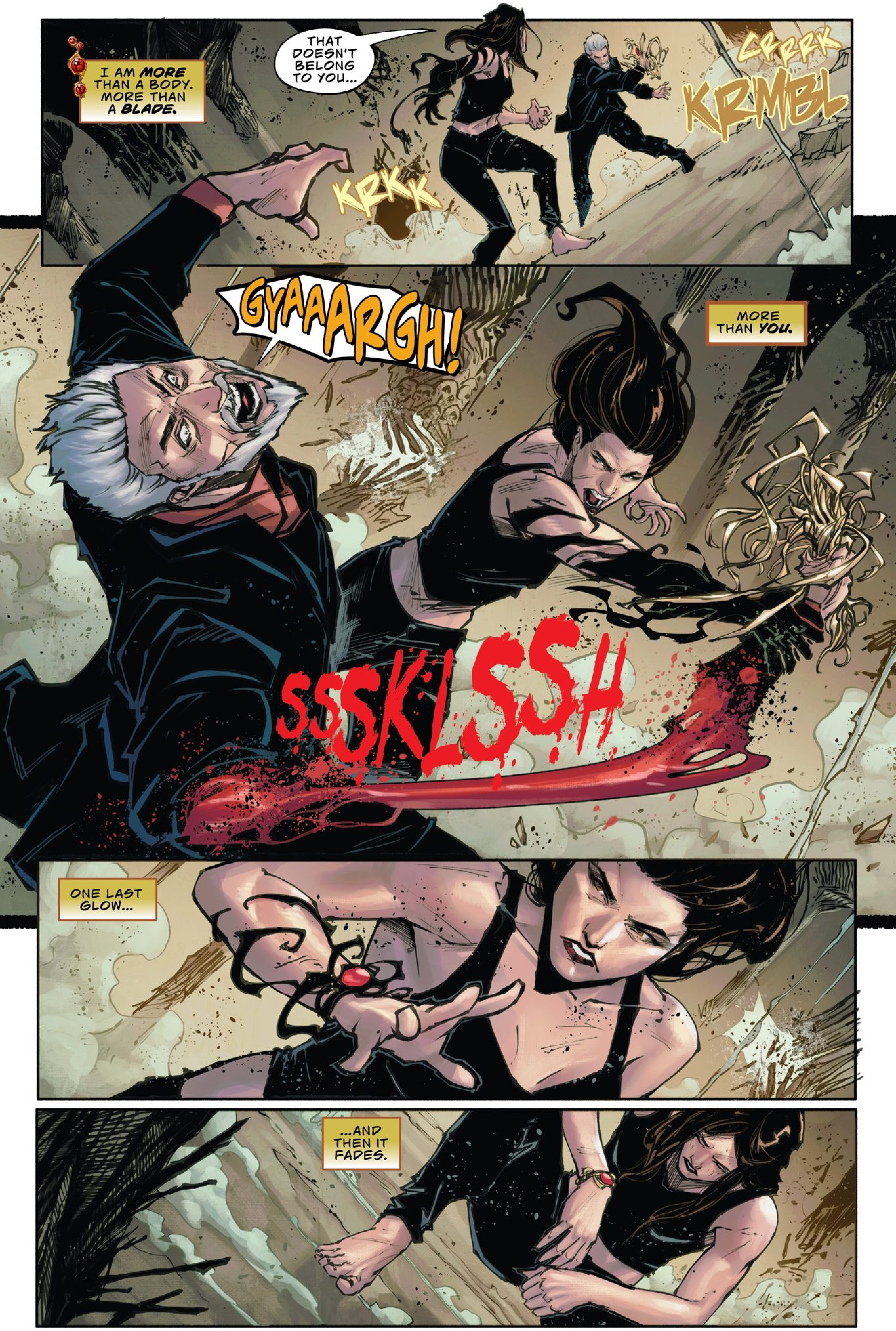

AAAAAAH!
NOOO! IT'S MINE!
FROM THE HARROWING, JACKIE ESTACADO SENDS ME SERPENTS AND MONSTERS--
AND IT BUYS ME ENOUGH TIME.
KK
KK
RRMM

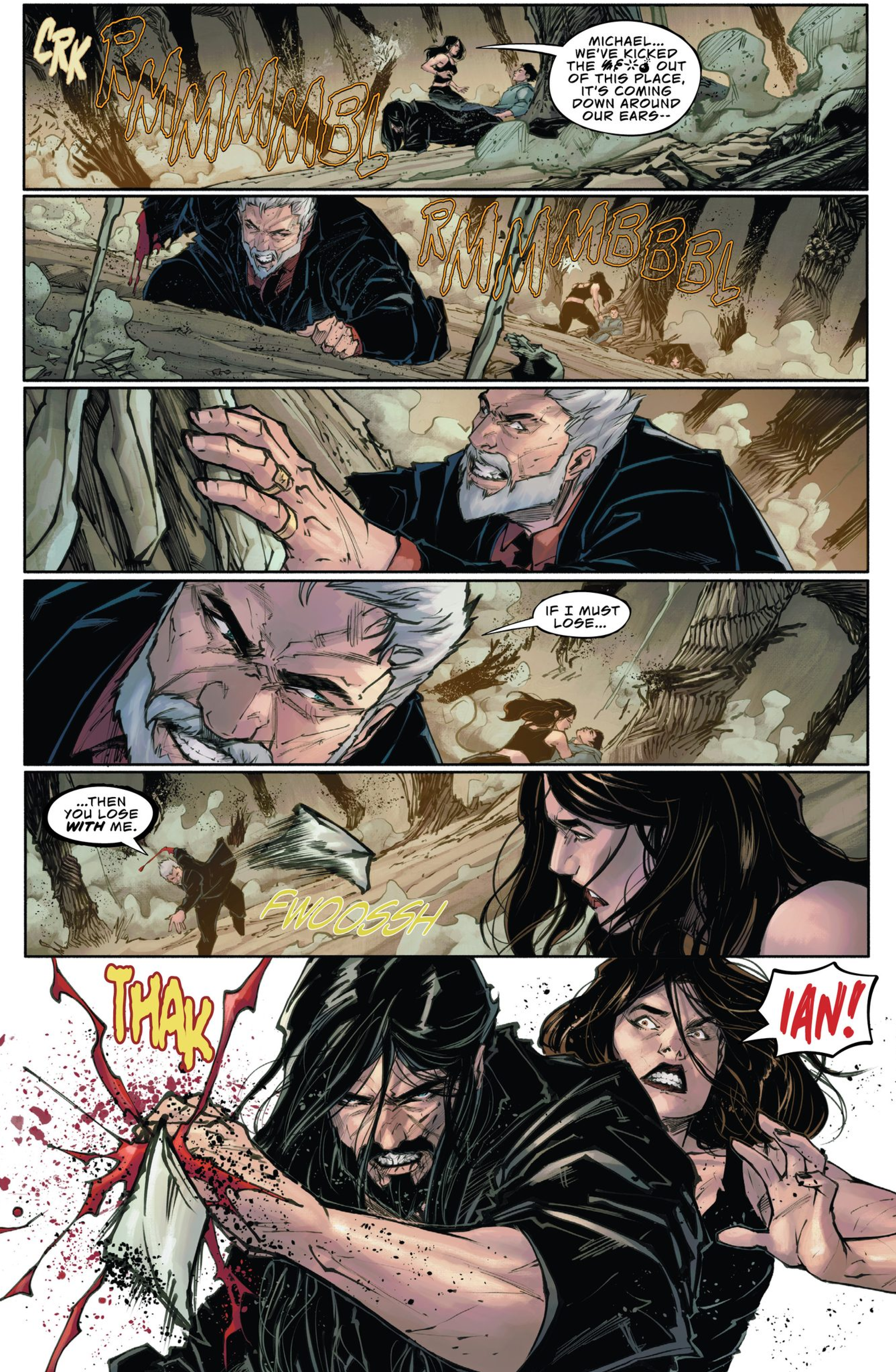

WE HAVE TO GET YOU AND MICHAEL OUT OF HERE, HAVE TO--!
?
I HEAR ITS VOICE, IN MY MIND.
...
KILL YOU--?!
NOT TO SAVE MICHAEL.
BUT BECAUSE *IF IRONS GETS THIS ANGEL'S HEART...*
IRONS WILL MERGE WITH THE WITCHBLADE.
AND THEN ALL OF US ARE DOOMED--NO.
NOT JUST DOOMED.
DAMNED.
BUT...*I CAN'T.*

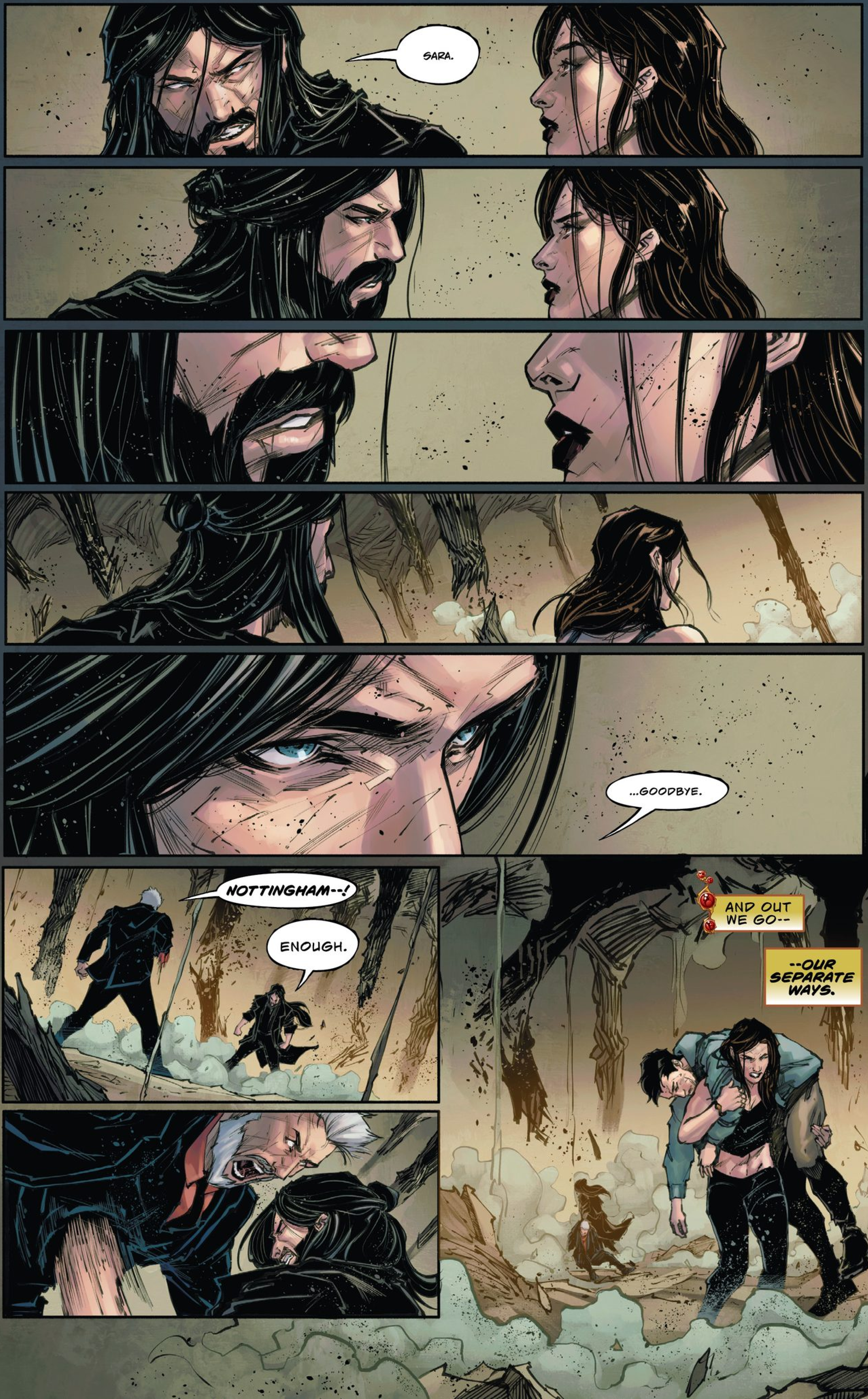

IT SPOKE WITH ITS EYES.
"ONLY ONE THING CAN STRIKE ME DOWN...
"...*WIELDER*."
DID I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT *I* WAS AN IMPOSTER?
DID I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS ALL A MISTAKE? THAT THESE CHOICES WEREN'T MEANT TO BE MINE?
MY FATHER CHOSE TO DO THE RIGHT THING, EVEN WHEN THE WRONG THING WAS EASY. WAS ENCOURAGED. WAS CONVENIENT.
PLEASE, GOD...
LET ME BE LIKE MY FATHER.

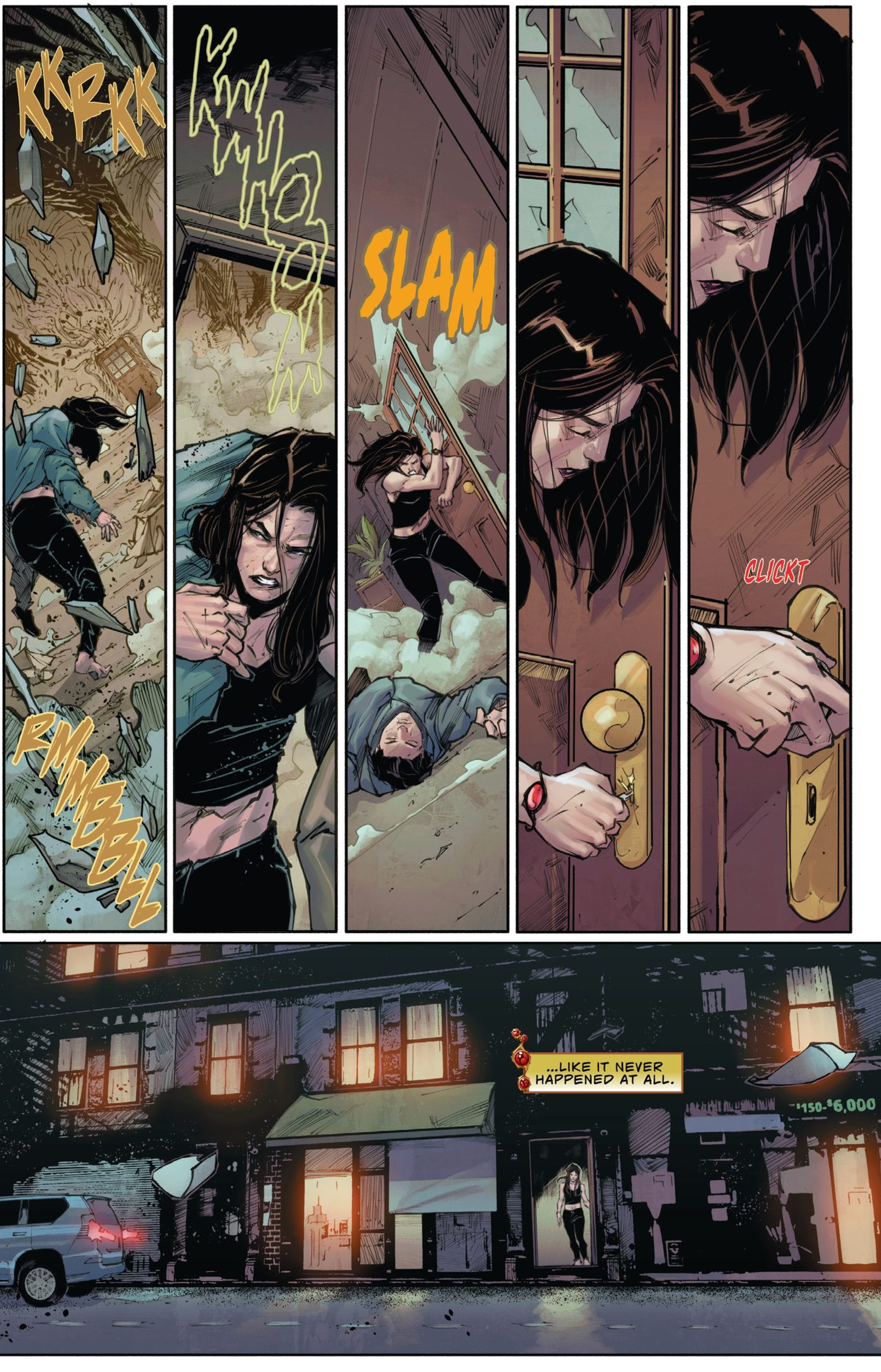

EVEN IF THAT'S THE LAST THING HE CAN EVER GIVE ME.
NOOOOO!
YOU BITCH--
THE LAST OF THE ANGEL'S LIGHT PASSES INTO ME...
YOU ☠⚡★@--
YOU MONSTER!
YES...

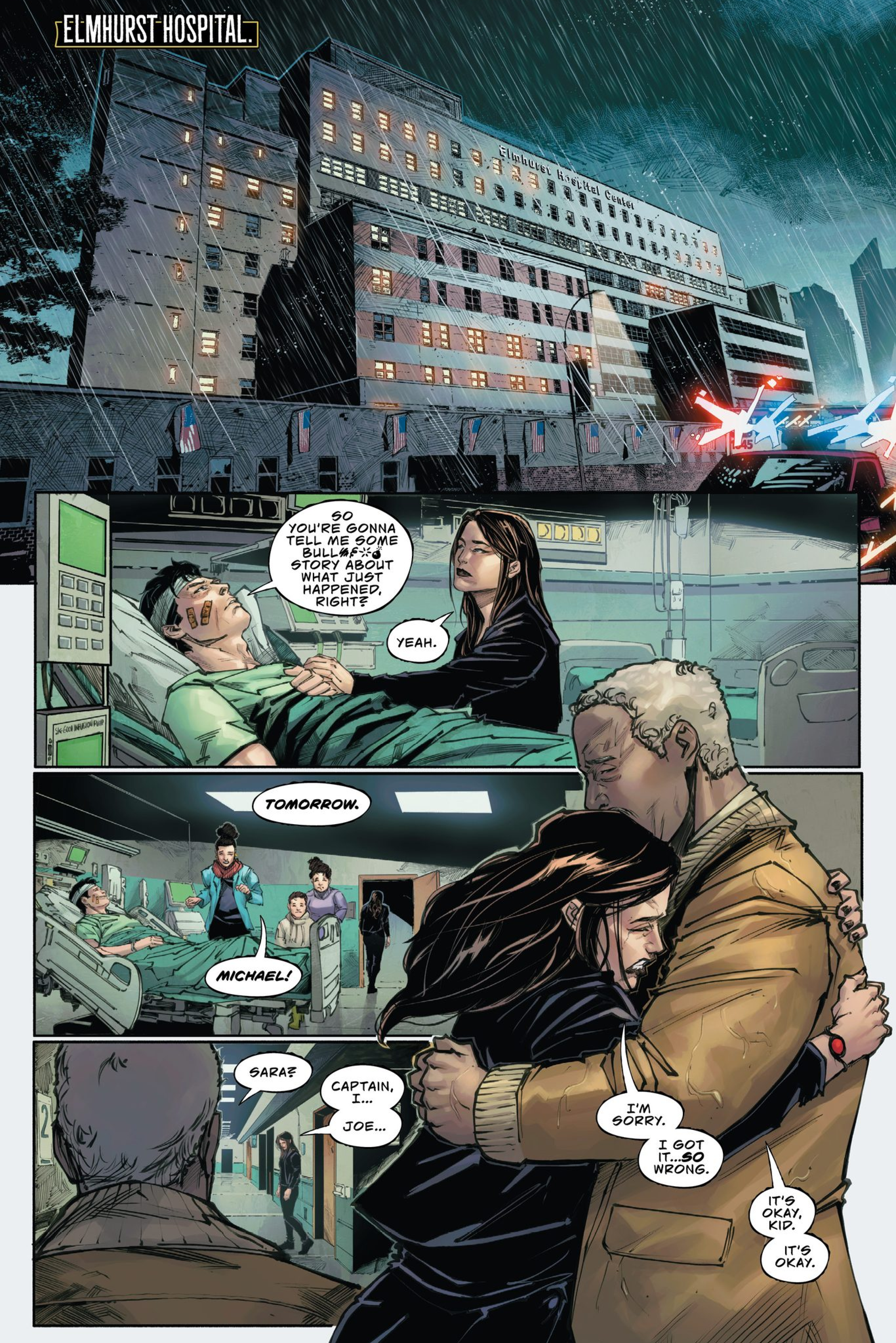

...BUT NOT *YOUR* MONSTER!
LIGHT AND DARK, I STRIKE AT HIM.
CRK KRMBL
GET UP...
LIKE YOU MADE ME GET UP.
KRK RMMM
GRAAAH!
SHFFSHH
HE USES THE WITCHBLADE'S CLAWS AGAINST ME.
SHFFSHS SLSH
KTSSZZZ
I *BURN* THEM WITH *HOLY FIRE.*
HRNNNK!
ENOUGH.
SHFFSHS SLSH
HE USES THE WITCHBLADE'S WHIP--
KRAKK
KSSSSSSSS
SSSSSSS
I LASH HIM WITH *TENDRILS OF DARKNESS.*
RMBL
HE TOLD ME HE WAS WILLING TO GO THROUGH MY HEART...
...BUT MY HEART ISN'T *JUST* IN MY CHEST ANYMORE.

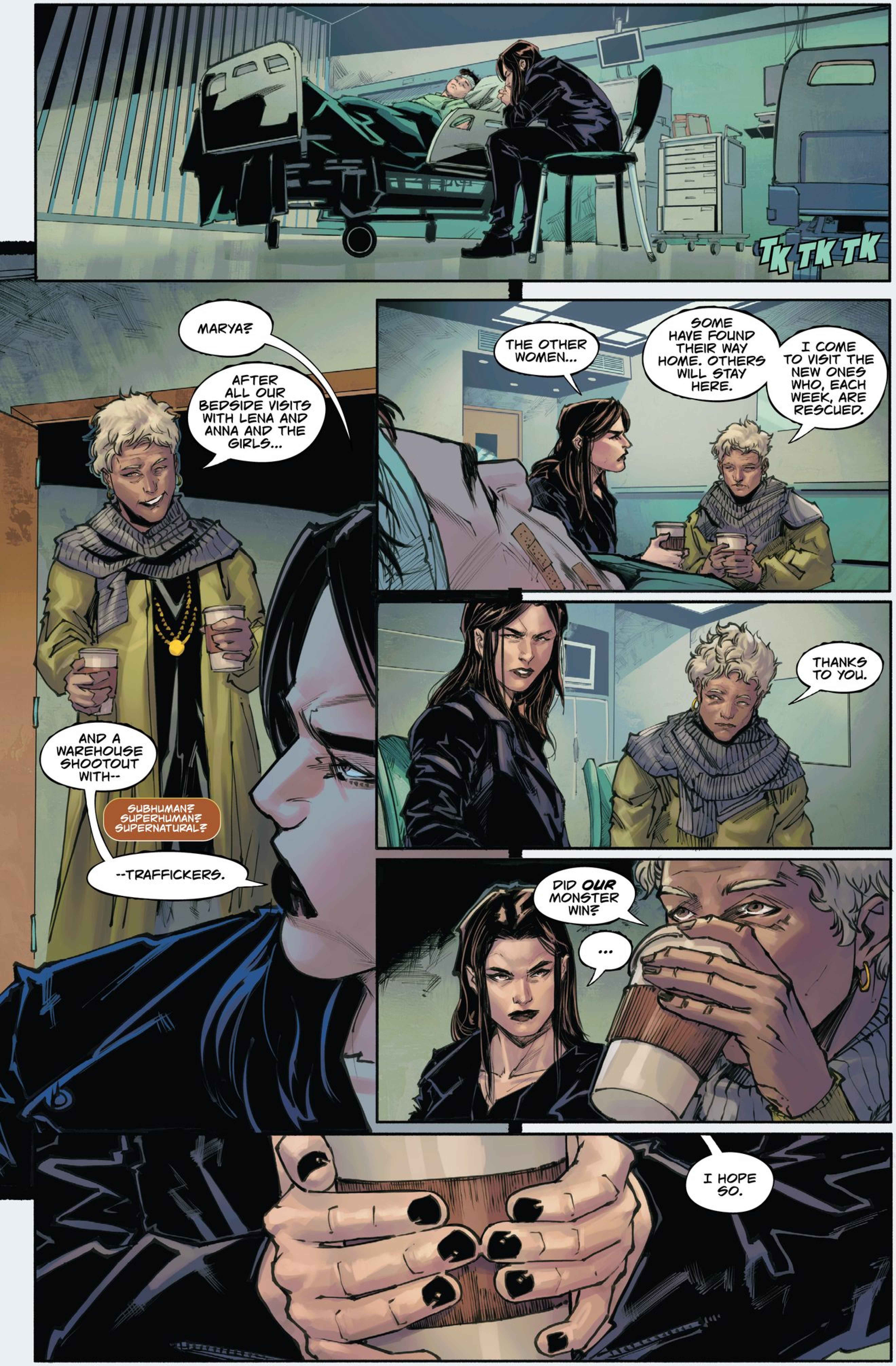

I AM *MORE* THAN A BODY. MORE THAN A *BLADE.*
THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU...
CRRRK
KRMBL
KRKK
GYAAARGH!
MORE THAN *YOU.*
SSSKLSSH
ONE LAST GLOW...
...AND THEN IT FADES.

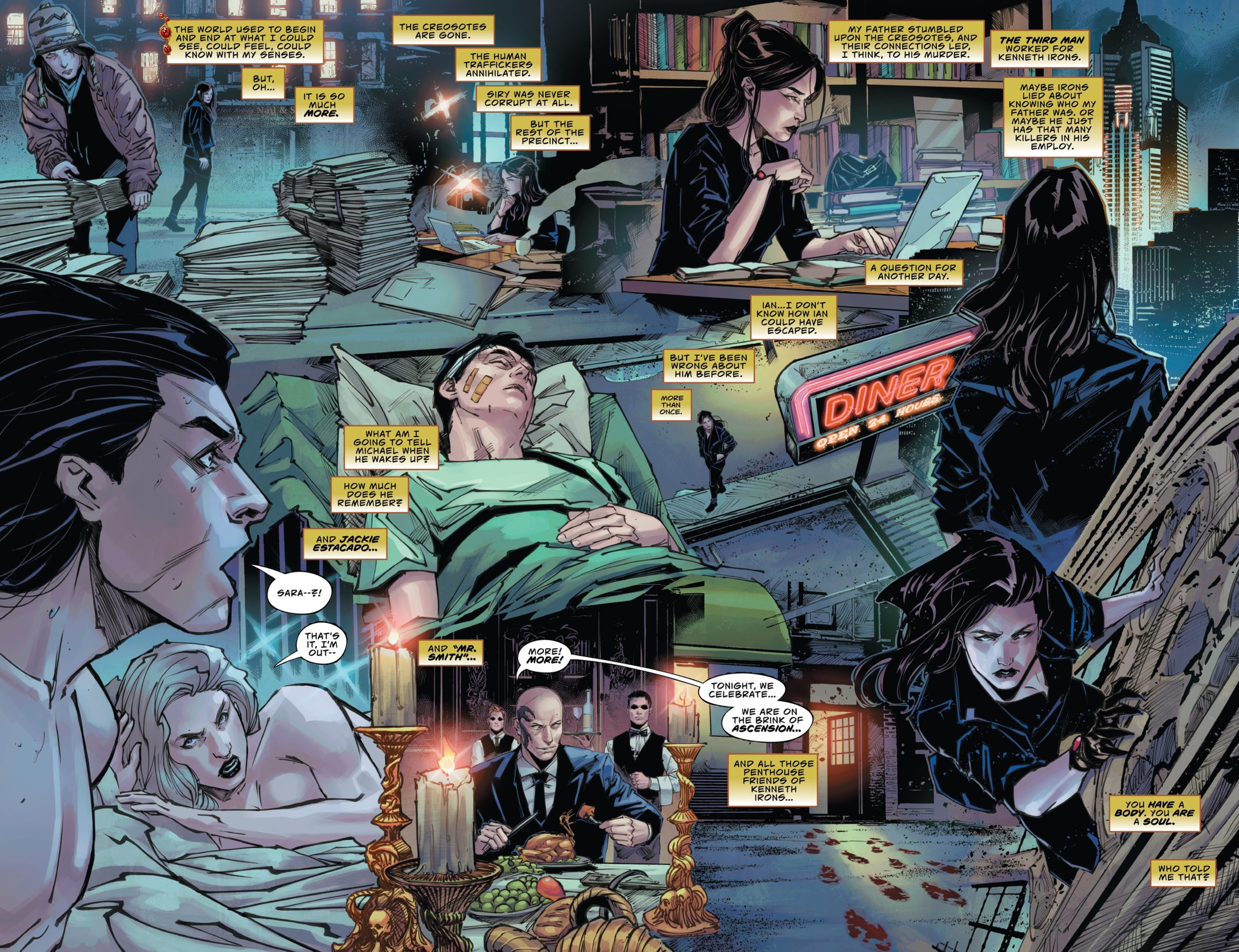

CRK
RMMMMMBL
MICHAEL... WE'VE KICKED THE #$*! OUT OF THIS PLACE, IT'S COMING DOWN AROUND OUR EARS--
RMMMMBBBL
IF I MUST LOSE...
...THEN YOU LOSE WITH ME.
FWOOSSH
THAK
IAN!

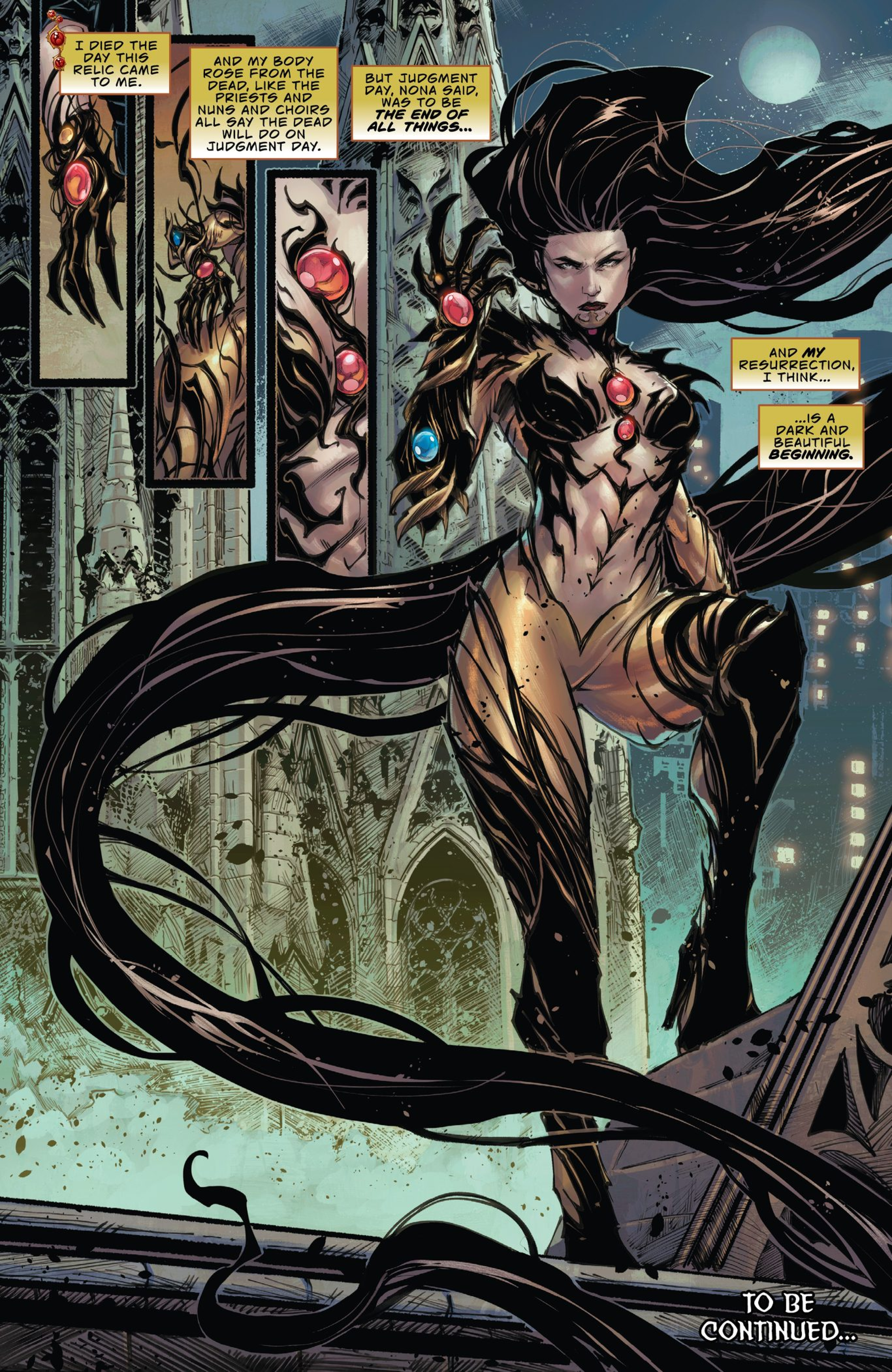

SARA.
...GOODBYE.
NOTTINGHAM--!
ENOUGH.
AND OUT WE GO--
--OUR SEPARATE WAYS.


KKRKK
RMMBBLL
KWHOOM
SLAM
CLICKT
...LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED AT ALL.
$150-$6,000


ELMHURST HOSPITAL.
Elmhurst Hospital Center
SO YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME SOME BULL#@*💣 STORY ABOUT WHAT JUST HAPPENED, RIGHT?
YEAH.
TOMORROW.
MICHAEL!
SARA?
CAPTAIN, I...
JOE...
I'M SORRY.
I GOT IT...SO WRONG.
IT'S OKAY, KID.
IT'S OKAY.


TK TK TK
MARYA?
AFTER ALL OUR BEDSIDE VISITS WITH LENA AND ANNA AND THE GIRLS...
AND A WAREHOUSE SHOOTOUT WITH--
SUBHUMAN? SUPERHUMAN? SUPERNATURAL?
--TRAFFICKERS.
THE OTHER WOMEN...
SOME HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY HOME. OTHERS WILL STAY HERE.
I COME TO VISIT THE NEW ONES WHO, EACH WEEK, ARE RESCUED.
THANKS TO YOU.
DID *OUR* MONSTER WIN?
...
I HOPE SO.

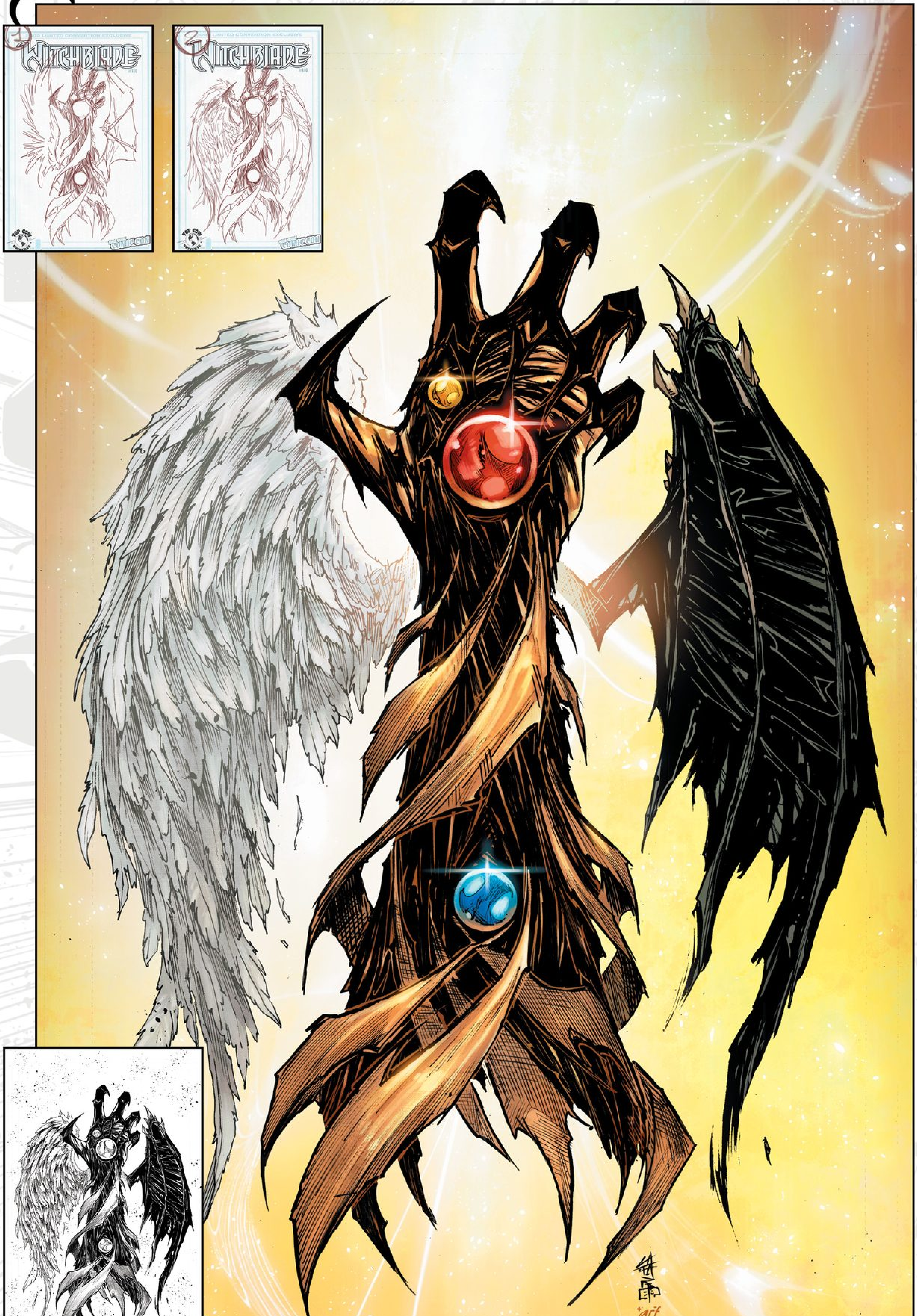

THE WORLD USED TO BEGIN AND END AT WHAT I COULD SEE, COULD FEEL, COULD KNOW WITH MY SENSES.
BUT, OH...
IT IS SO MUCH *MORE.*
THE CREOSOTES ARE GONE.
THE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS ANNIHILATED.
SIRY WAS NEVER CORRUPT AT ALL.
BUT THE REST OF THE PRECINCT...
MY FATHER STUMBLED UPON THE CREOSOTES, AND THEIR CONNECTIONS LED, I THINK, TO HIS MURDER.
THE THIRD MAN WORKED FOR KENNETH IRONS.
MAYBE IRONS LIED ABOUT KNOWING WHO MY FATHER WAS. OR MAYBE HE JUST HAS THAT MANY KILLERS IN HIS EMPLOY.
A QUESTION FOR ANOTHER DAY.
IAN...I DON'T KNOW HOW IAN COULD HAVE ESCAPED.
BUT I'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT HIM BEFORE.
MORE THAN ONCE.
DINER
OPEN 24 HOURS
WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL MICHAEL WHEN HE WAKES UP?
HOW MUCH DOES HE REMEMBER?
AND *JACKIE ESTACADO*...
SARA--?!
THAT'S IT, I'M OUT--
AND *"MR. SMITH"*...
MORE! *MORE!*
TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE...
WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF *ASCENSION...*
AND ALL THOSE PENTHOUSE FRIENDS OF KENNETH IRONS...
YOU *HAVE* A *BODY.* YOU *ARE* A *SOUL.*
WHO TOLD ME THAT?


I DIED THE DAY THIS RELIC CAME TO ME.
AND MY BODY ROSE FROM THE DEAD, LIKE THE PRIESTS AND NUNS AND CHOIRS ALL SAY THE DEAD WILL DO ON JUDGMENT DAY.
BUT JUDGMENT DAY, NONA SAID, WAS TO BE *THE END OF ALL THINGS...*
AND *MY* RESURRECTION, I THINK...
...IS A DARK AND BEAUTIFUL *BEGINNING.*
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE!

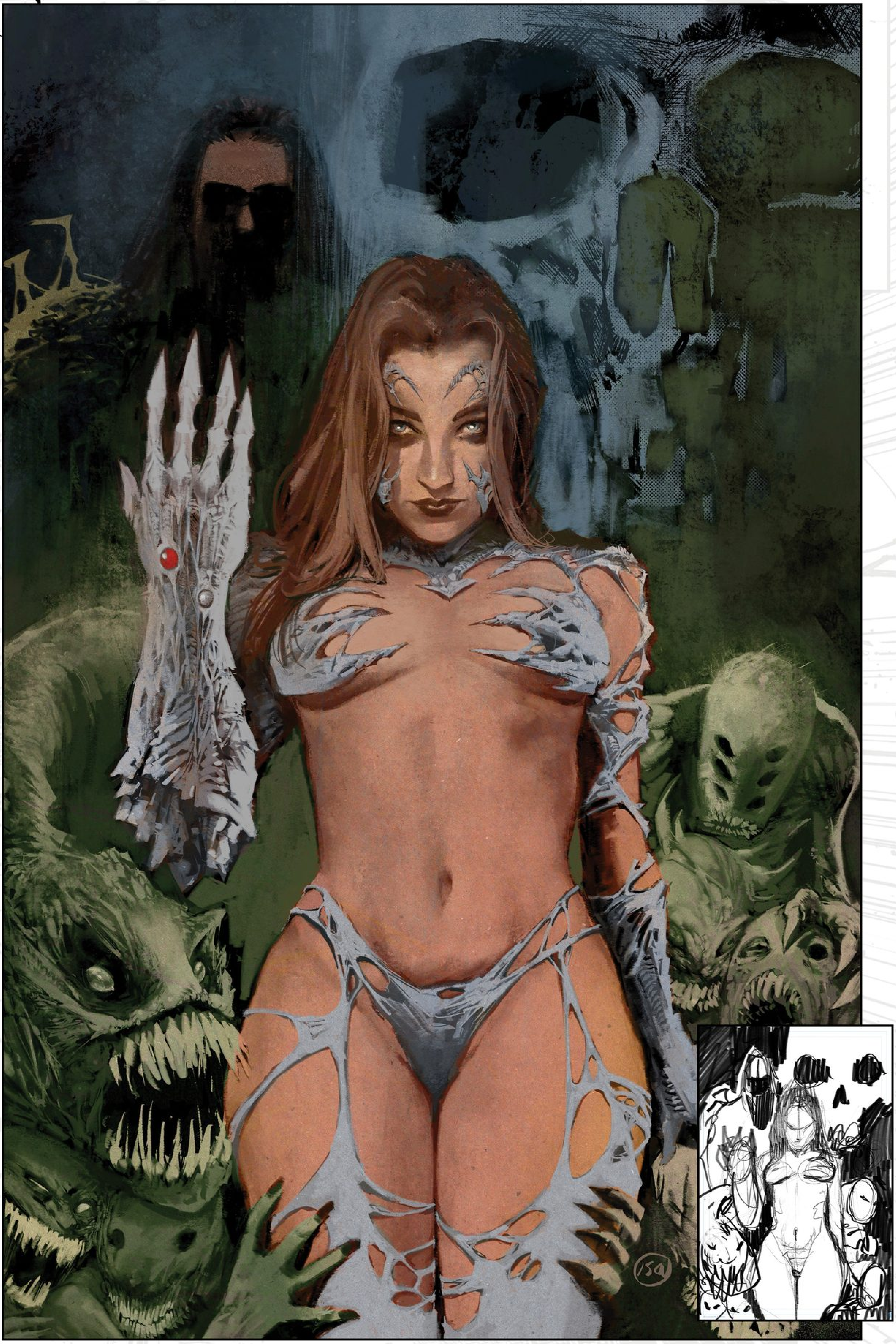
"GHOST OF TOM JOAD"

WITCHBLADE #13 Gallery • Cover Process


WITCHBLADE
WITCHBLADE

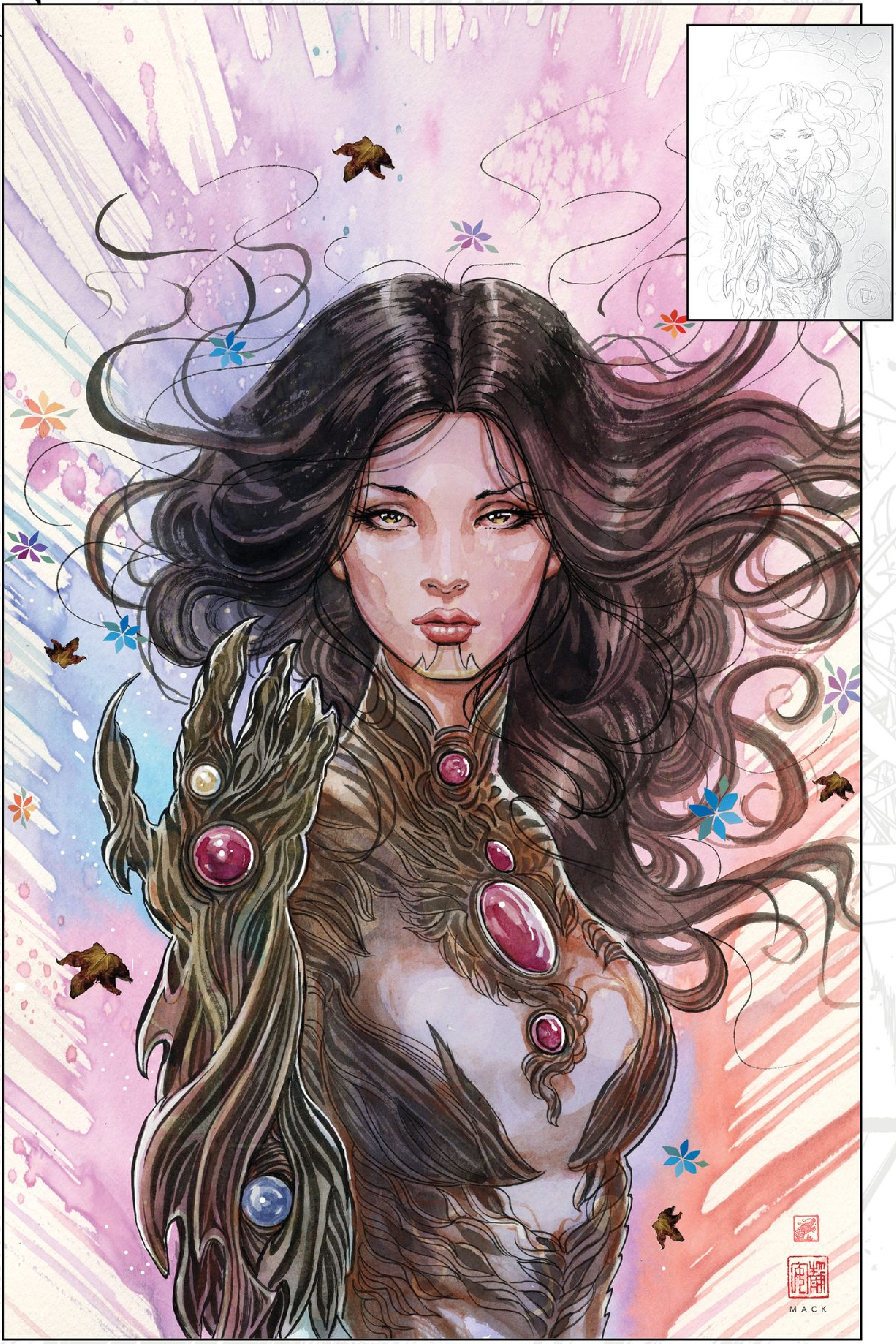
Witchblade #13, Cover A and D (B/W), process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #13 Gallery • Cover Process



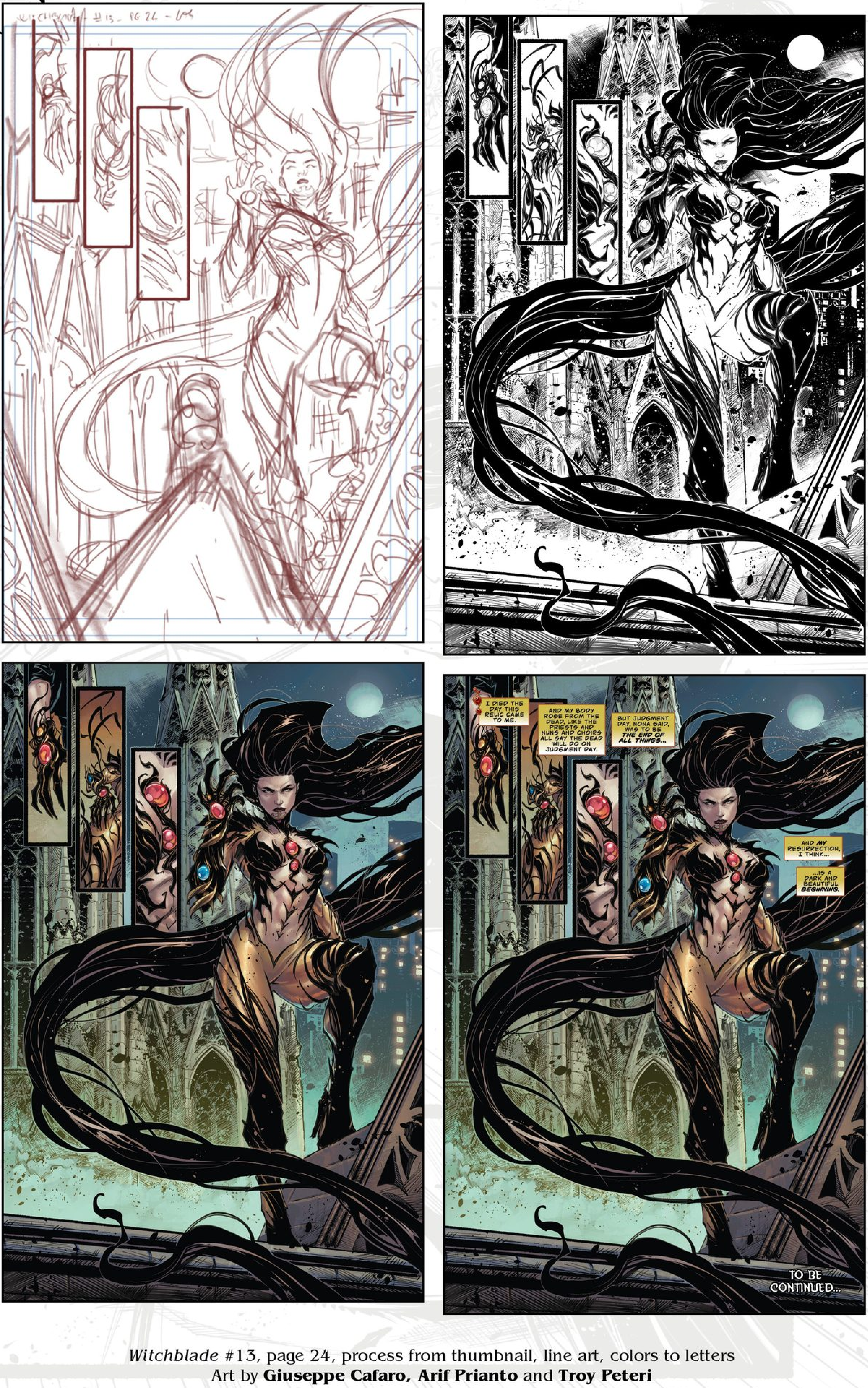
Witchblade #13, Cover B, E and Top Cow Store Foil Exclusive "Legacy Variant", process from thumbnail to colors
Art by **Jason Shawn Alexander**

WITCHBLADE #13 Gallery • Cover Process



Witchblade #13, Cover C, F, and Top Cow Store Spot Foil Exclusive, process from line art to colors
Art by **David Mack**

WITCHBLADE #13 Gallery • Page Process

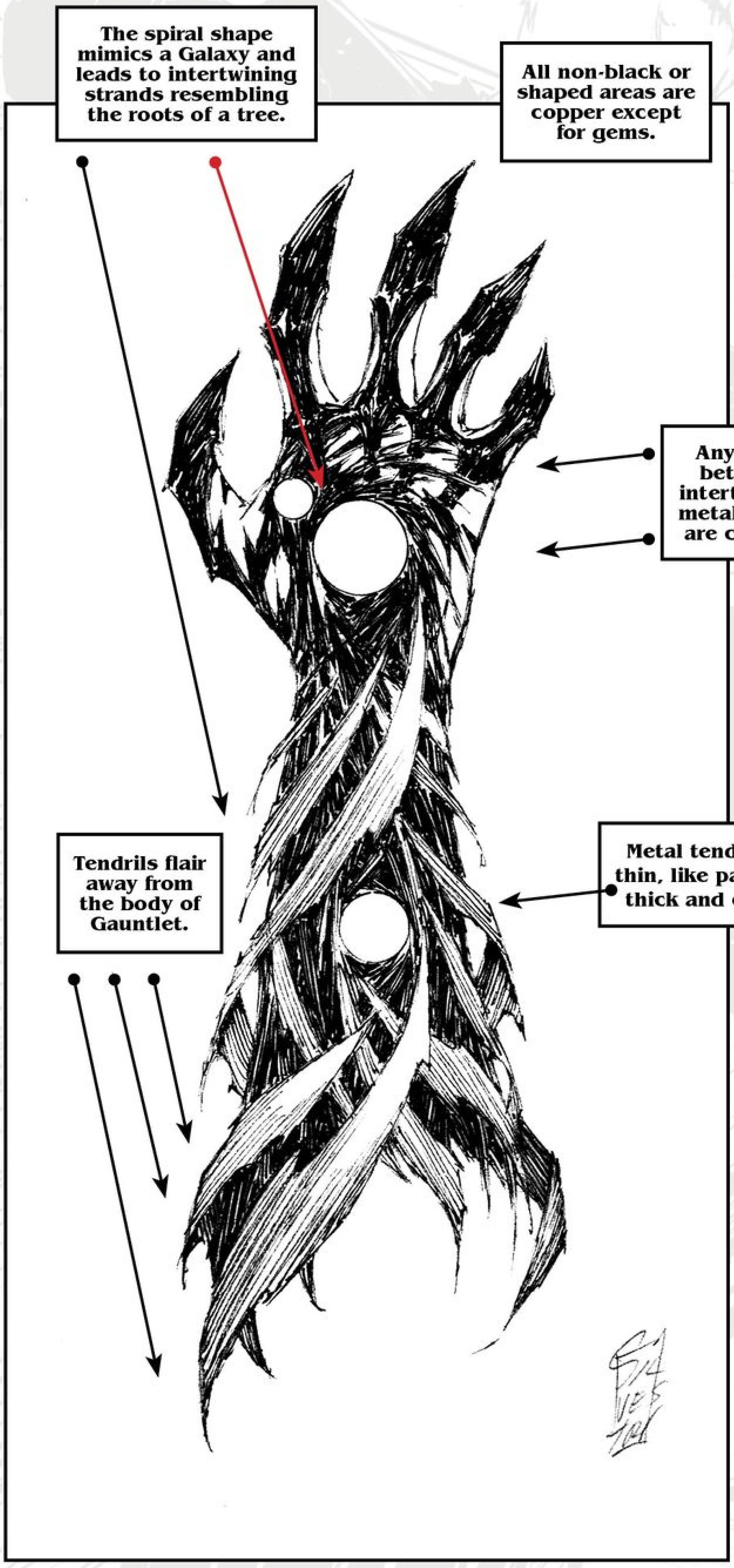

I DIED THE DAY THIS RELIC CAME TO ME.
AND MY BODY ROSE FROM THE DEAD, LIKE THE PRIESTS AND NUNS AND CHOIRS ALL SAY THE DEAD WILL DO ON JUDGMENT DAY.
BUT JUDGMENT DAY, NONA SAID, WAS TO BE *THE END OF ALL THINGS...*
AND *MY* RESURRECTION, I THINK...
...IS A *DARK AND* BEAUTIFUL ***BEGINNING.***
TO BE CONTINUED...

Witchblade #13, page 24, process from thumbnail, line art, colors to letters
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro, Arif Prianto** and **Troy Peteri**

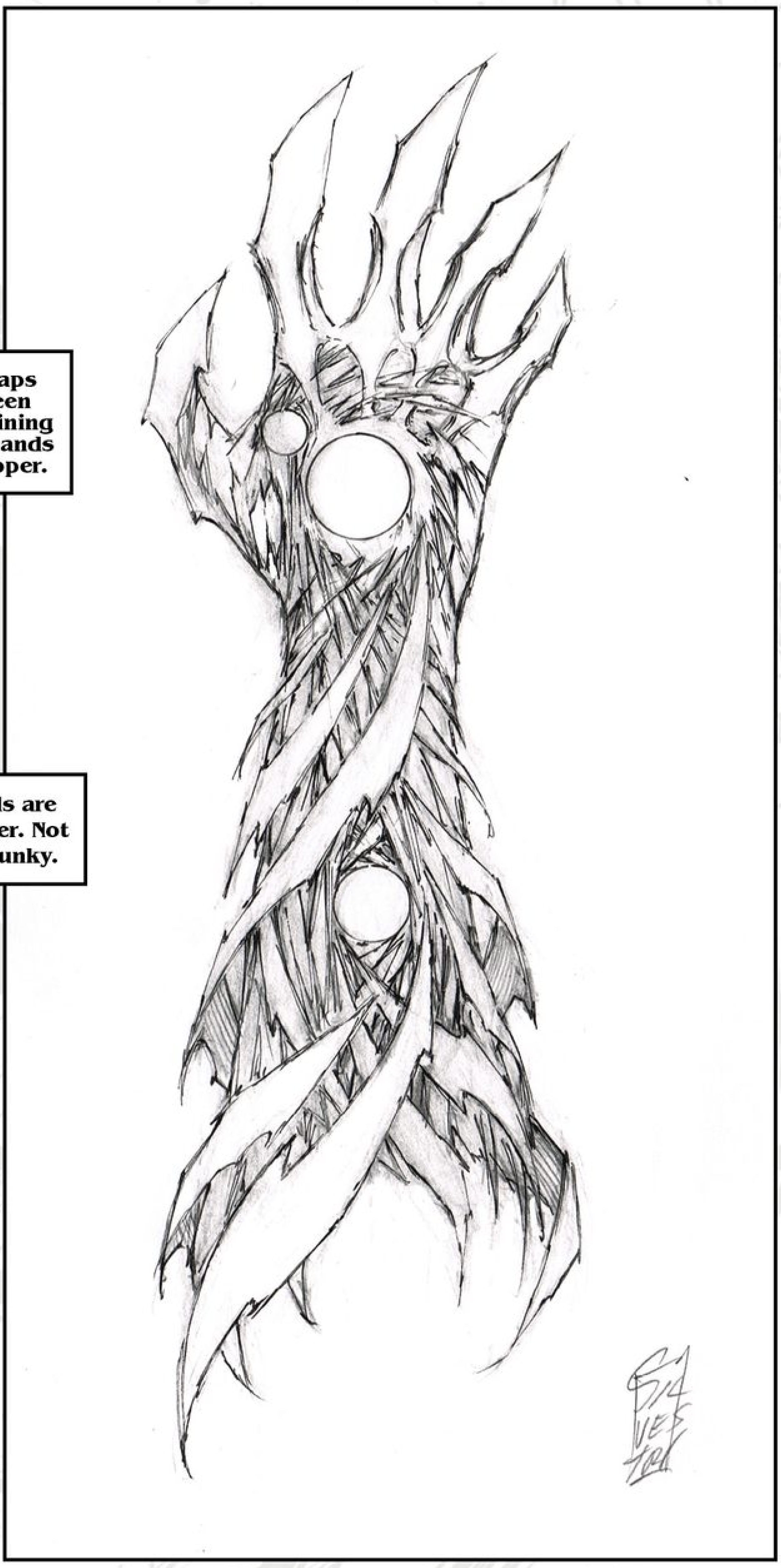
WITCHBLADE®

Process Gallery

"Black Armor" Designs by **Marc Silvestri.**
The new era of *Witchblade* begins here with a new armor design mirroring Sara's deeper connection to the ancient weapon, transformed.

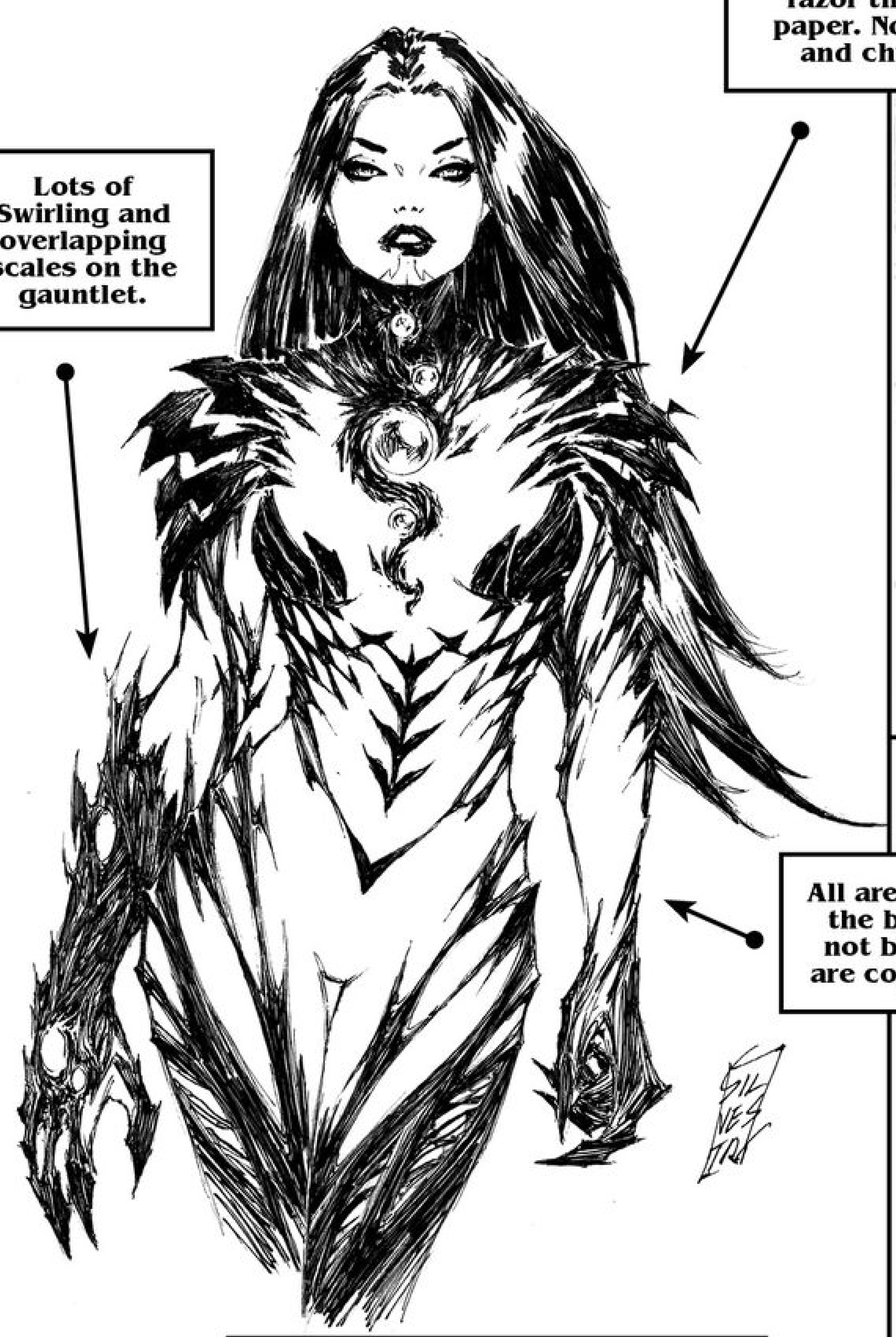

The spiral shape mimics a Galaxy and leads to intertwining strands resembling the roots of a tree.
All non-black or shaped areas are copper except for gems.
Any gaps between intertwining metal bands are copper.
Tendrils flair away from the body of Gauntlet.
Metal tendrils are thin, like paper. Not thick and chunky.

Art with Black Areas spotted.



Art with lines open for clear reference on structure.

Art with black areas spotted.

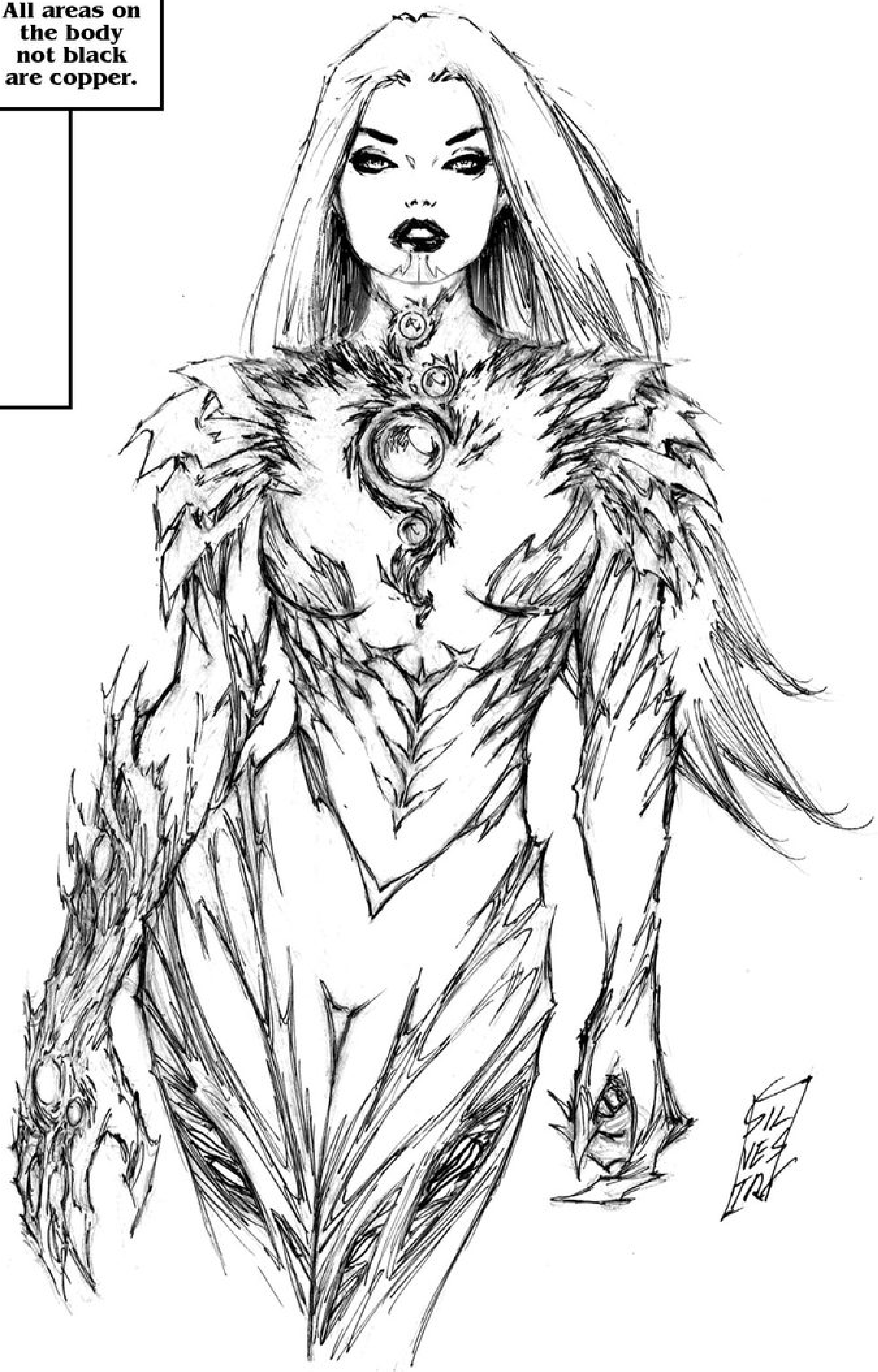


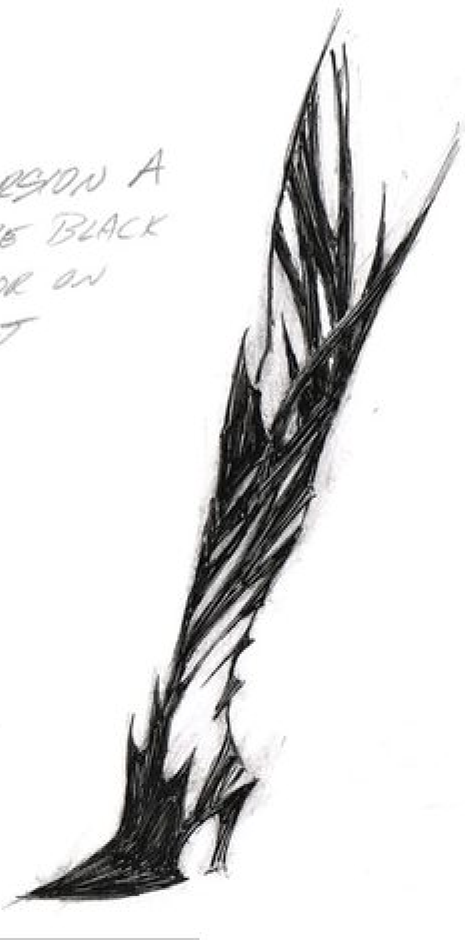
Lots of Swirling and overlapping scales on the gauntlet.

Armor plates are razor thin like paper. Not thick and chunky.

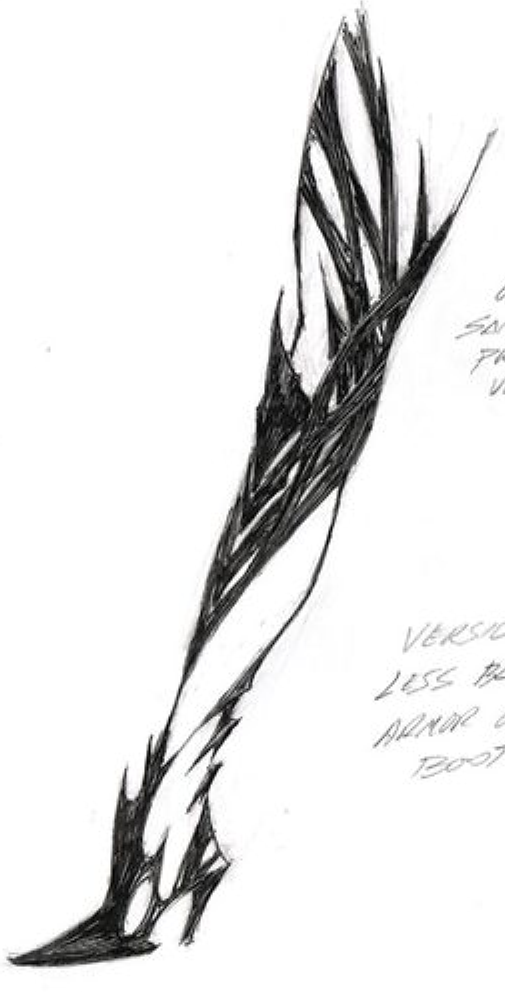
All areas on the body not black are copper.

Art with lines open for clear reference on structure.





VERSION A
MORE BLACK
ARMOR ON
BOOT



GEMS
SAME AS
PREVIOUS
VERSION

VERSION B
LESS BLACK
ARMOR ON
BOOT

Creative Team

Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles.

Her credits include DC Comics' *Bombshells, Batwoman* and *RWBY*, along with *Animosity*, *Horde*, and *Insexts* through Aftershock Comics, and *MOTHER OF MADNESS* with *Game of Thrones* superstar Emilia Clarke for Image Comics. She has written *Mighty Morphin Power Ranger*s for Boom Studios, *Josie and the Pussycats* through Archie, *A-Force* and *Years of Future Past* at Marvel, *Red Sonja* and *Sheena* from Dynamite, and the indie horror darling *The Lot* for Bad Idea.

She is the lead writer of *Ark: The Animated Serie*s from Studio Wildcard.

Giuseppe Cafaro is an Italian artist who is based in Caserta, Italy. He started his professional career with the Italian publisher GGStudio, and right after, in 2012, he started to work for Aspen Comics on books like *Soulfire, Fathom: Kiani* and *Trish out of Water*, and Zenescope Entertainment as a cover artist for several years.

He worked over the last 10 years with other publishers, like DC Comics, on *Suicide Squad* and *Catwoman*, and Dynamite Entertainment, on *Red Sonja* and *Vampirella*. He also worked on graphic novels for Boom Studios based on the *Power Rangers* franchise.

In 2021, he collaborated with Tim Seeley and Steve Orlando on *LOADED BIBLE* for Image Comics. Also, he worked on some short stories for Heavy Metal with Blake Northcott and with Phil Smith for the book *Brik Jones: Attorney for Earth*, for his publisher Fighting Lion Comics.

Arif Prianto followed his dreams of working in comics and began his career as a professional colorist in 2007. Since then he has worked on titles from Top Cow Productions, Inc on *WITCHBLADE, THE DARKNESS*, for DC on *Batman & The Joker, Dark Knights of Steel,* and for Marvel on *Venom* and *Spider Woman*. He says that coloring comics is "the best job ever!"

Troy Peteri has been lettering comics for over 20 years and has worked for most publishers you've heard of, and plenty you haven't. He's lettered everything from *The Avengers, Iron Man, Wolverine,* and *Amazing Spider-Man* to more recent titles such as *WITCHBLADE*, *Shazam*, and his all-time favorite gig, *Batman & Joker: The Deadly Duo*.

AVAILABLE NOW!

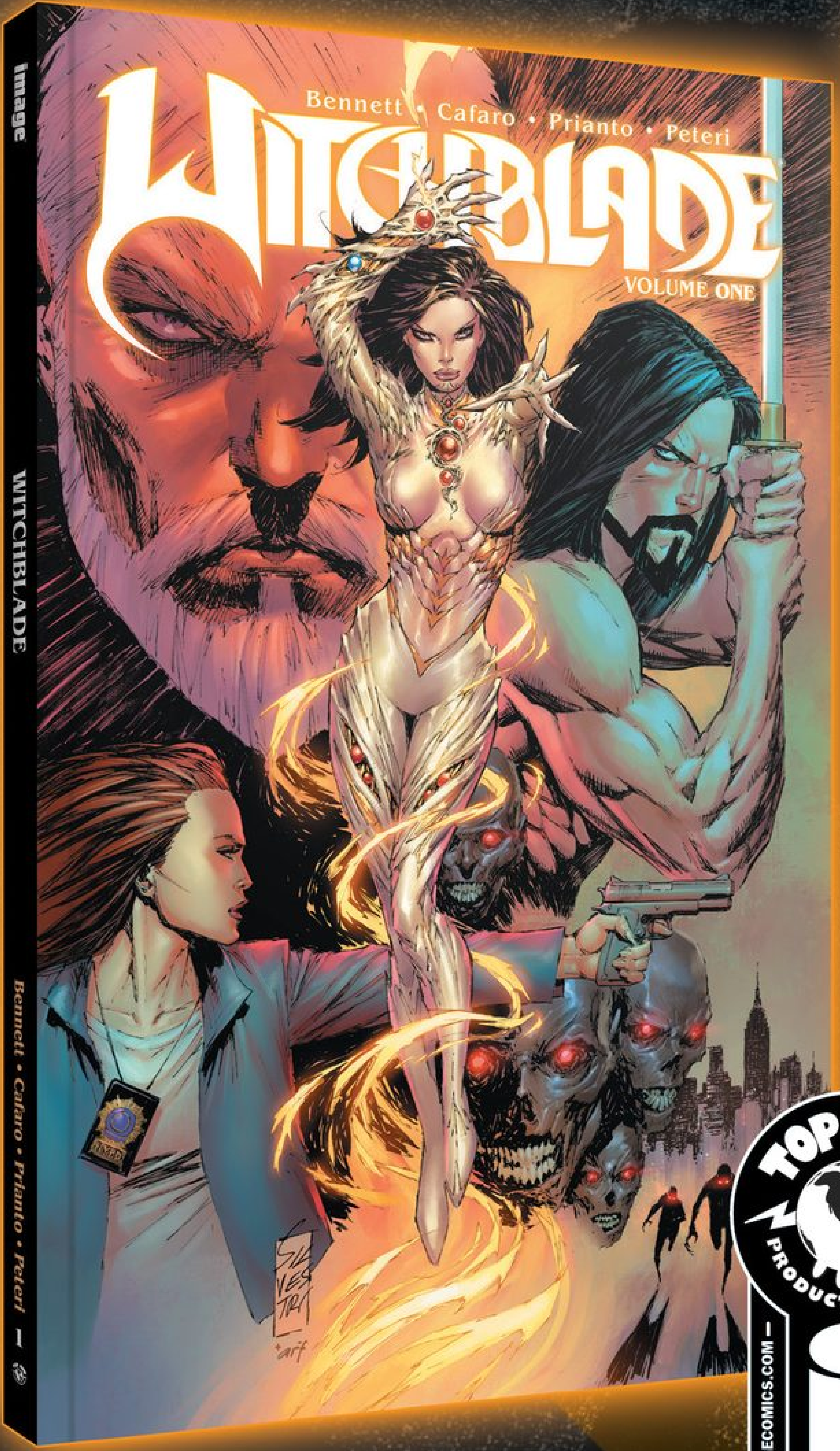


image
Bennett • Cafaro • Prianto • Peteri
WITCHBLADE
VOLUME ONE
WITCHBLADE
Bennett • Cafaro • Prianto • Peteri
1

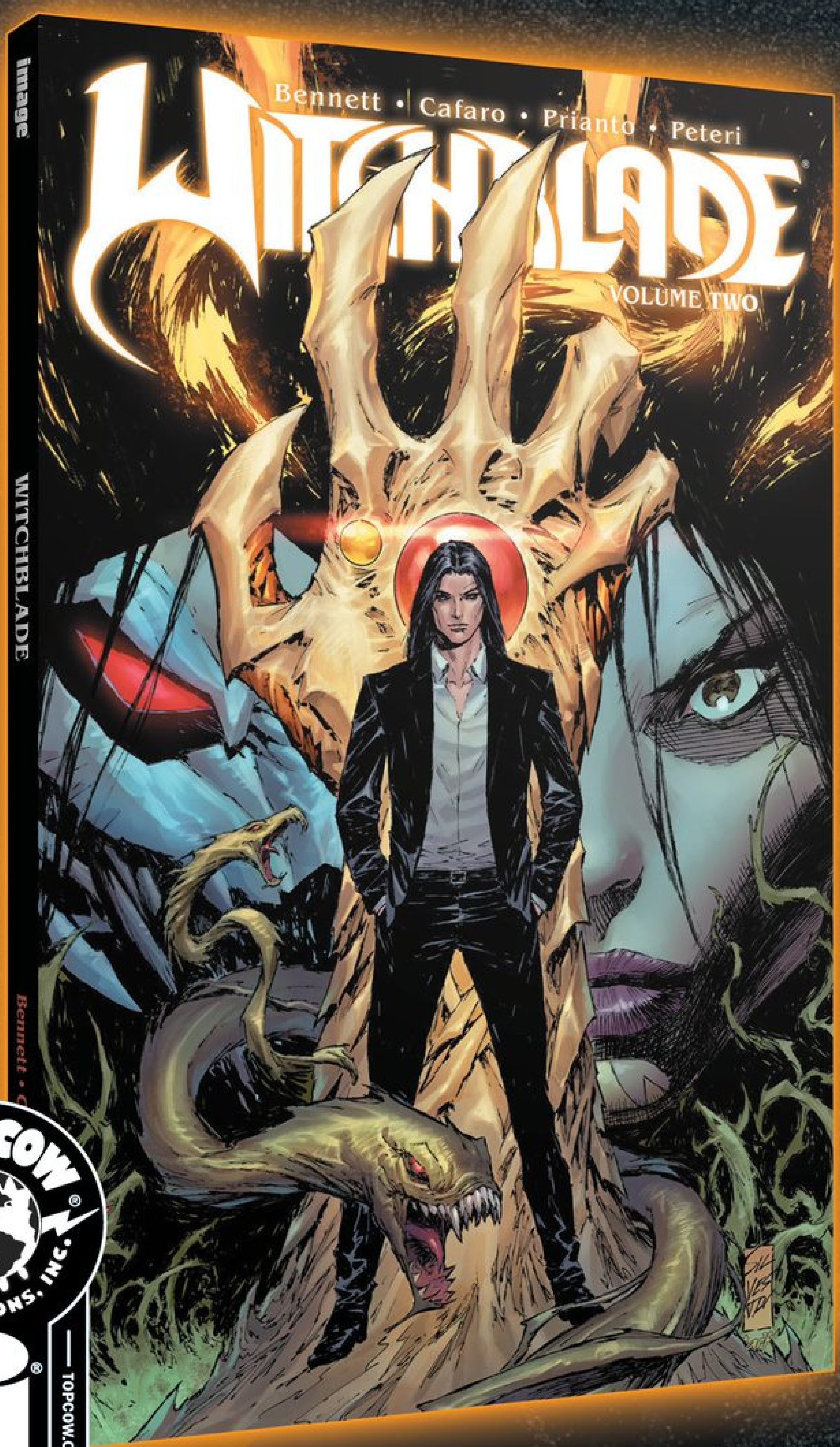


image
Bennett • Cafaro • Prianto • Peteri
WITCHBLADE
VOLUME TWO
WITCHBLADE

TOP COW PRODUCTIONS, INC.
IMAGECOMICS.COM
TOPCOW.COM
image

Catch up with the new era of *Witchblade*
with the collected edition trade paperbacks
available now wherever books are sold!

WITCHBLADE
VOLUME
ONE

First printing introductory price!
ISBN: 978-1-5343-6060-0
Lunar Order Code 1124IM272
Collects: *Witchblade* #1-6 + #1/2
200 pages • $9.99 US

WITCHBLADE
VOLUME
TWO

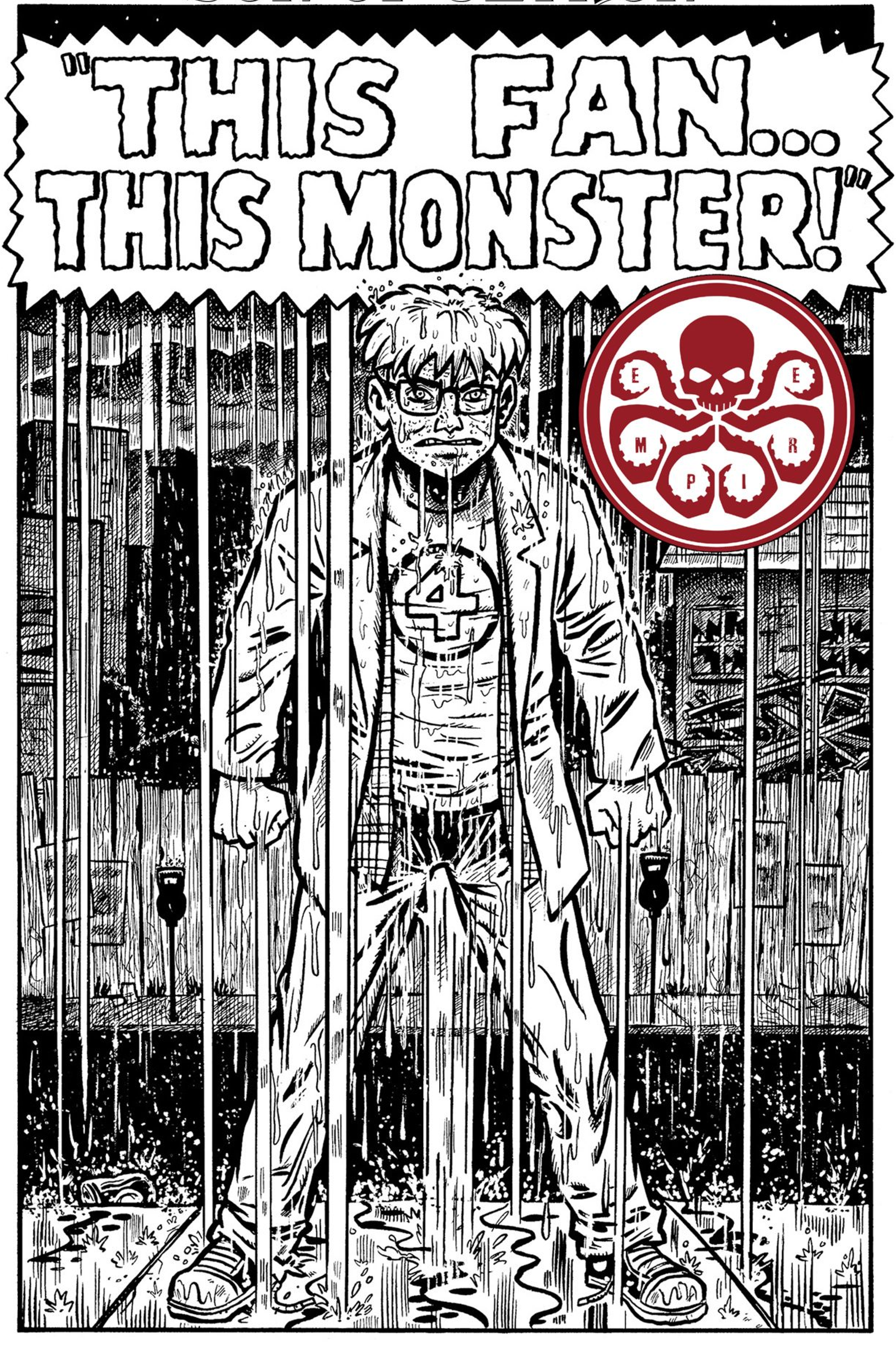
ISBN: 978-1-5343-3489-2
Lunar Order Code: 0625IM440
Collects: *Witchblade* #7-12,
plus "The Befana" Holiday Story
176 pages • $19.99 US

Crime/Supernatural/Superhero • T+/Teen Plus (16+)

Witchblade is a ® of Top Cow Productions, Inc 2025. All Rights Reserved. · Topcow.com · Follow @TopCow

COVER A ART BY **GIUSEPPE CAFARO** AND **ARIF PRIANTO**
TOPCOW.COM | IMAGECOMICS.COM | RATED T + / TEEN PLUS

SON OF ULTRON


"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"